

Trial team quits Roger Stone case in dispute over sentence

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The four lawyers who prosecuted Roger Stone quit the case Tuesday after the Justice Department overruled them and said it would take the extraordinary step of lowering the amount of prison time it would seek for President Donald Trump's longtime ally and confidant. The resignations raised immediate questions over whether Trump, who earlier in the day had blasted the original sentencing recommendation as "very horrible and unfair," had at least indirectly exerted his will on a Justice Department that he often views as an arm of the White House.

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In this Feb. 1, 2019 file photo, former campaign adviser for President Donald Trump, Roger Stone, leaves federal court in Washington.

Associated Press



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Trial team quits Roger Stone case in dispute over sentence

Continued from Front

The department said the decision to shorten the sentencing recommendation was made Monday night — before Trump's tweet — and prosecutors had not spoken to the White House about it. Even so, the resignations of the entire trial team broke open a simmering dispute over the punishment of a Trump ally whose case has long cap-

tured the president's attention. The episode was the latest to entangle the Justice Department, meant to operate free from White House sway in criminal investigations and prosecutions, in presidential politics. The four attorneys, including two who were early members of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia team, comprised the entire Justice Department trial team that won convictions

against Stone last fall. Each had signed onto a Monday sentencing memo that recommended between seven and nine years in prison for Stone, who was convicted of lying to Congress, witness tampering and obstructing the House investigation into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia to tip the 2016 election. None lent their names to a Tuesday memo that



In this Nov. 12, 2019 file photo, Roger Stone, a longtime Republican provocateur and former confidant of President Donald Trump, waits in line at the federal court in Washington.

Associated Press

called the original recommendation excessive.


The resignations leave in limbo the resolution of a case that was one of the signature prosecutions of Mueller's team and that cut to the heart of his mission — to determine whether the Trump team had access to nonpublic information about Democratic emails hacked by Russian operatives and provided to WikiLeaks.

The Justice Department's leader, Attorney General William Barr, has been a steady ally of the president's since taking the position. Barr last year cleared the president of obstruction of justice even when Mueller had pointedly declined to do so, and Barr has declared that the FBI's Russia investigation — which resulted in charges against Stone — had been based on "bogus narrative."

It's not clear what sentence the department will ultimately seek — a new sentencing memo filed Tuesday evening indicated that the original recommendation was too harsh but proposed no recommended punishment of its own. A Justice Department official said authorities decided to step in and seek a


shorter sentence because they had been taken by surprise by the initial recommendation. The person, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said prosecutors had told the department to expect a recommendation for a shorter sentence.

It is extremely rare for Justice Department leaders to reverse the decision of its own prosecutors on a sentencing recommendation, particularly after that recommendation has been submitted to the court. Normally, U.S. attorneys have wide latitude to recommend sentences on cases they prosecute. A mass exodus from a case is even rarer, though the tumult did conjure an episode from last summer when Justice Department lawyers abruptly left a lawsuit over whether a citizenship question could be added to the census. The day of upheaval began with a morning tweet from Trump that the Stone case was a "miscarriage of justice." He later told reporters he didn't speak to Justice Department officials, though he said he could if he wanted. □




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U.S. open jobs fall sharply for 2nd straight month



In this Sept. 18, 2019, file photo people stand in line to inquire about jobs available at the Bean Automotive Group during a job fair designed for people fifty years or older in Miami.

Associated Press

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. businesses sharply cut the number of jobs they advertised in December for the second straight month, an unusual sign of weakness in an otherwise healthy job market.

The number of available positions dropped 5.4% to 6.4 million, a historically solid number, the Labor Department said Tuesday. There are still more open jobs than there are unemployed people, an unusual situation that has persisted for nearly two years. Before that, the ranks of those out of work exceeded the number of open jobs.

Still, the total of available jobs has fallen by more than 1 million in the past year, the biggest annual drop since the Great Recession.

Most of that decline has occurred in just the past two months. Job openings are now at their lowest level in two years. The decline comes after job openings had hit the highest level on records dating

back to December 2000. Nearly all other measures of the labor market remain healthy:

The unemployment rate is 3.6%, nearly a half-century low, and employers added 225,000 jobs last month, a solid increase.

"The trend in job growth has remained strong through January ... but the recent decline in job openings signals that job growth could slow at some point," said Daniel Silver, an economist at JPMorgan Chase.

Over the past two months, openings have fallen across all large industries covered by Tuesday's report, known as the Job Openings and Labor Turnover survey, or JOLTS. Some of the biggest declines were in construction, manufacturing, financial services, and retail.

Other data in the report suggested hiring and the job market remains solid. Total hiring rose 1.4% to 5.9 million in December. The JOLTS tracks gross hiring, while the monthly jobs report counts net job gains. The Labor Department said last month that employ-

ers added a net total of 147,000 jobs in December. Layoffs also rose in December to nearly 1.9 million, the highest in more than two years. But that number is historically volatile and may not signify a shift in trends.

As a percentage of the workforce, job cuts remain low. And weekly figures on unemployment claims also point to a low level of layoffs.

The number of Americans quitting their jobs declined

moderately, but remains at a healthy level. More frequent job departures are typically a sign of job market health, because most workers leave their jobs for a better or higher-paying position. □



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Yang, who created buzz with freedom dividend, ends 2020 bid



In this Feb. 7, 2020, photo, Democratic presidential candidate entrepreneur Andrew Yang speaks during a Democratic presidential primary debate at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, N.H.
Associated Press

By SARA BURNETT
Associated Press

Democrat Andrew Yang, an entrepreneur who cre-

ated buzz for his presidential campaign by talking about his love of math and championing a universal

basic income that would give every American adult \$1,000 per month, suspended his 2020 bid on Tuesday.

"I am the math guy, and it is clear to me from the numbers that we are not going to win this race," Yang said in front of a crowd of supporters as votes in New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary were being counted.

"This is not an easy decision, or something I made lightly with the team. Endings are hard and I've always had the intention to stay in the race until the very end," he added. "But I have been persuaded that the message of this campaign will not be strengthened by my staying in the race any longer."

The 45-year-old was one of the breakout stars of the Democratic primary race, building a following that started largely online but expanded to give him enough donors and polling numbers to qualify for the first six debates. Yang announced his departure from the race shortly before Colorado Sen. Michael Bennet did Tuesday night, bringing the Democratic field to single digits.

He outlasted senators and governors, and after initially self-funding his campaign, he raised more money than most of his rivals, bringing in over \$16 million in the final quarter of last year. It was a bigger haul than all but the top four candidates: Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, former Vice President Joe Biden and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

"We went from a mailing list that started with just my Gmail contact list to receiving donations from over 400,000 people around the country and millions more who supported this campaign," Yang said before pledging to support whoever becomes the Demo-

cratic nominee. Yang grew his outsider candidacy by campaigning as a non-politician, someone who mixed unconventional campaign events — from bowling to ax throwing — with serious talk about the millions of jobs lost to automation and artificial intelligence and the dark outlook for American jobs and communities.

The graduate of Brown University and Columbia Law School gave campaign speeches full of statistics and studies that often resembled an economics seminar. His supporters, known as the Yang Gang, donned blue hats and pins with the word MATH — short for his slogan Make America Think Harder.

Yang promoted his signature issue of universal basic income, which he dubbed the "freedom dividend," by announcing during a debate that he would choose individuals to receive the monthly \$1,000 checks. The statement prompted questions about whether he was trying to buy votes, but also generated a buzz online and helped the campaign build a list of possible supporters.

His poll numbers were high enough, combined with his fundraising strength, to qualify for him for all of the 2019 debates, though he fell short of Democratic National Committee's qualifications to participate in the January debate in Iowa. He was, however, one of seven candidates who participated in Friday's debate in New Hampshire. His departure from the race almost guarantees that the Democrats, who once had the most diverse presidential field in history, will have no candidates of color on the debate stage again this cycle. □



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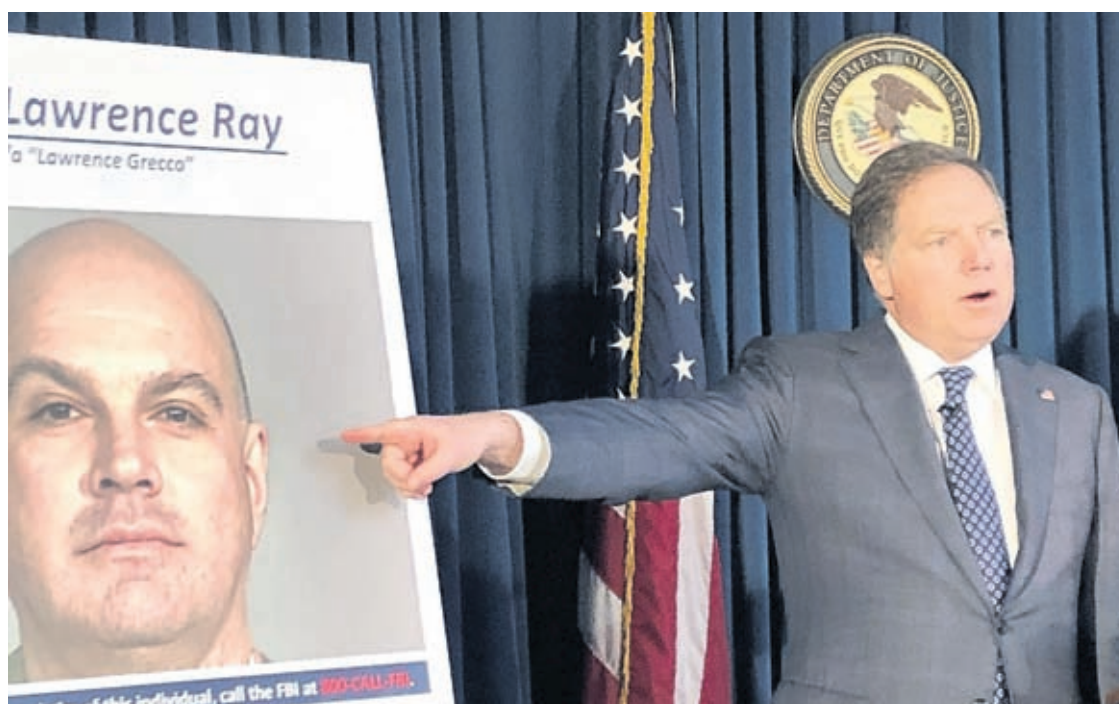
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Feds: Ex-convict extorted college students for nearly \$1M

By JIM MUSTIAN
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — An ex-convict accused of bilking several college students out of nearly \$1 million and forcing some into prostitution or unpaid labor was arrested Tuesday on extortion and sex trafficking charges. Lawrence "Larry" Ray was previously known for his role in helping to send former New York City police commissioner Bernard Kerik, who was a close confidant of Rudy Giuliani, to prison. Federal prosecutors said Ray, 60, used "physical, sexual and psychological abuse" to extort money from five different students at Sarah Lawrence College, a private liberal arts college outside New York City. He convinced them they were indebted to him, authorities said, subjecting them to "grueling interrogations" that spanned hours and deprived them of food and sleep. Ray was taken into custody Tuesday and expected to appear hours later in Manhattan federal court. He had previously denied the allegations, saying they were the result of a conspiracy against him. It was not clear whether he had a defense attorney who could comment on the charges. U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman told reporters the investigation was prompted by an article that appeared last year in New York magazine.



U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman points to a photo showing Lawrence Ray during a news conference, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020, in New York.

Ray allegedly ensnared many of his victims while they were college sophomores at Sarah Lawrence. His first victims were his daughters' roommates, Berman said. Ray moved into the students' on-campus housing in late 2010, presented himself as a father figure to the roommates and began conducting "therapy" sessions with them, according to an indictment filed in U.S. District Court. Prosecutors said he alienated them from their parents, persuading some of them to move into a Manhattan apartment and convincing them they were "broken." "After gaining his victims' trust, Ray turned on them, falsely accusing them of

harming him by attempting to poison him or to deliberately damage his property," Berman said. Ray solicited false confessions from more than a half-dozen victims, Berman said, and coerced them to make payments "they did not actually owe and could not possibly afford." Prosecutors said Ray recorded some of the confessions. In interviews with New York magazine, Ray said he believed he was being poisoned as part of a conspiracy hatched by some of the students and Kerik, who denied any involvement. Sarah Lawrence said Tuesday that it has not been contacted by federal prosecutors but would cooperate "if invited to do so."

The college said it investigated the allegations raised in the New York magazine article but "did not substantiate those specific claims." "The charges contained in the indictment are serious, wide-ranging, disturbing and upsetting," the college said in a statement. "As always the safety and well-being of our students and alumni is a priority for the college." Prosecutors allege that Ray directed the students to drain money from their parents' savings accounts and forced some of them into unpaid labor at a family member's property in North Carolina. Others opened lines of credit or solicited contributions from others to

help pay the false debts. "Ray subjected his victims to almost unspeakable abuse," Berman said, alleging Ray once tied a woman to a chair and placed a plastic bag over her head that nearly suffocated her. Ray collected more than \$500,000 from that woman after forcing her into prostitution, prosecutors said. Ray previously played a role in a scandal involving Kerik, a former police driver for Giuliani while he was mayor. Kerik became New York City's corrections commissioner in 1998 and then its police commissioner from 2000 to 2001, serving during the 9/11 attacks. Kerik nearly became President George Bush's homeland security secretary in 2004, but his name was abruptly withdrawn as the nominee. Two days later, The Daily News reported that Ray, who had been the best man at Kerik's wedding, had come forward with evidence that Kerik failed to report thousands of dollars in gifts he'd received while working for the city. At the time, Ray was under indictment in a \$40 million stock scam. Kerik ultimately served nearly four years in prison for tax fraud, making false statements and other charges related to gifts he accepted from companies looking for favors, including a construction firm that wanted his help getting a city license. □

Hill collapses, roads flooded, dam eroded by Southern rains

By JAY REEVES

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) —

A Tennessee hillside collapsed, roads were flooded and rivers were rising across the Southeast on Tuesday after a day of heavy rains that once again threatened a Mississippi lake where a dam previously was in danger of failing.

The National Weather Service said minor to moderate flooding was expected from central Mississippi to north Georgia following downpours. The Tennessee River was predicted to crest about 7 feet (2.1 meters) above flood level at Perryville, Tennessee, on Sunday.

Near Great Smoky Mountains National Park in eastern Tennessee, tons of rock and soil slid off a 70-foot (21-meter) hillside and blocked the northbound side of a U.S. 441 spur linking the tourist towns of Gatlin-



This aerial drone photo provided by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency shows a potential dam/levee failure in the Springridge Place subdivision in Yazoo County, Miss., Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020.

Associated Press

burg and Pigeon Forge, the National Park Service said. At least 45 dump truck loads will be required to clear the road, officials estimated, but no injuries were reported.

Multiple roads were covered with water or washed out because of rainfall that exceeded 5 inches

(7.6 centimeters) in spots across central Alabama, and forecasters said totals could reach 6 inches (15.2 centimeters) by nightfall.

Schools opened late or closed in parts of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana because of flash flooding. A flood watch stretched from eastern Texas to Mis-

issippi, and parts of Alabama were under flood warnings.

North of Birmingham in Cullman, the sheriff's office said Deputy Adam Clark and his police dog were badly injured in a wreck during heavy rains overnight. The cause of the crash was under investigation.

In eastern Mississippi, officials in Starkville said the water at Oktibbeha County Lake had once again reached a critical level just weeks after heavy rains caused a mudslide that put the earthen dam in danger of failing.

Pumps had been used to lower the lake level by about 8 feet (2.4 meters) since mid-January, but officials said the water had risen to an even higher than before because of recent storms.

"It has risen over 8.5 feet from our low elevation during pumping and continues to rise," said a statement by Kristen Campanella, emergency management director in Oktibbeha County.

Officials also were monitoring the site of a potential dam failure in Yazoo County, where the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency said a 40-acre (16-hectare) lake in a subdivision was leaking around a culvert and washing away dirt, threatening four homes and a church. Five homes were evacuated after a levee breach in Leake.

Elsewhere in Mississippi, 25 homes had been damaged and four people were hurt in wrecks caused by vehicles hydroplaning on wet roads, according to the state. The damage was worst in Yazoo, where a dozen people were displaced from homes.

In addition, the National Weather Service confirmed Tuesday that an EF-1 tornado touched down Monday about 2.5 miles (4 kilometers) northwest of Plave, Mississippi, in Greene County. The twister caused minor roof damage and uprooted several trees, the weather agency said. □



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Many winter residential evictions banned in pricey Seattle

SEATTLE (AP) — Many residential evictions in pricey Seattle have been banned for the city's coldest and wettest months of December, January and February but city leaders decided against invoking the ban for November and March. The move aimed at helping low- and moderate-income tenants from being ousted from their homes in a city with a widespread homelessness problem was enacted Monday night with a 7-0 vote by the Seattle City Council despite opposition from Mayor Jenny Durkan, The Seattle Times reported.

Durkan spokesman Ernesto Apreza warned the ban is almost certain to be contested in a legal fight that would be costly for taxpayers. It does not apply to landlords owning four housing units or less in the city with some of the highest rents in the U.S.

Durkan could sign the measure into law, let

it become law without her signature or veto it, in which case the council would have to vote again. Her office said in a statement that she is evaluating the measure. If she vetoes it, six city councilor votes are needed to override the veto. Supporters have said the ban was needed to prevent people down on their luck from being forced outside during bone chilling weather, adding that the evictions disproportionately affect women and people of color and that people can die without shelter.

Some other U.S. jurisdictions restrict evictions during bad weather but Seattle is the first U.S. city to adopt such a broad ban, city councilors said. Critics of the ban said landlords need eviction power during the winter so they can pay their bills and urged city leaders to reduce evictions by connecting needy tenants with rent assistance. □

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Actor Jussie Smollett faces 6 new charges in Chicago

By **DON BABWIN** and
HERB McCANN
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Actor Jussie Smollett was indicted Tuesday for a second time on charges of lying to police about a racist and anti-gay attack he allegedly staged on himself in downtown Chicago, renewing a divisive criminal case that drew worldwide attention last year.

The indictment came from a special prosecutor who was appointed after Cook County prosecutors dropped the same charges last March.

The new charges were sure to reignite many of the tensions that surrounded Smollett a year ago. When his claims first emerged, he drew a groundswell of support from fans and celebrities and gave an emotional television interview about the attack.

The case came to reflect the polarized state of political discourse in America. Many Democrats initially called it a shocking instance of Trump-era racism and hate, while Republicans depicted it as yet another example of liberals rushing to judgment and disparaging the president's supporters as bigots.

Special prosecutor Dan Webb said in a statement that Smollett faces six felony counts of disorderly conduct, charges that stem from four separate false reports that he gave to police in which he contended he was a victim of a hate crime "knowing that he was not the victim of a crime." The statement immediately raised questions about county prosecutors' decision to drop the charges

and made it clear that those prosecutors had not adequately explained to special prosecutors why they did so. But Webb stressed that he had reached no conclusions about whether anyone involved in the case had engaged in any wrongdoing. Smollett, who is black and gay, was originally charged with disorderly conduct last February for allegedly staging the attack and lying about it to investigators. The allegations were dropped the following month with little explanation, angering police officials and then-Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

Smollett told police he was walking home early on Jan. 29, 2019, when two masked men approached him, made racist and homophobic insults, beat him and looped a noose around his neck before fleeing. He said his assailants, at least one of whom he described as white, told him he was in "MAGA country" — a reference to President Donald Trump's campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again."

Several weeks later, authorities alleged that Smollett had paid two black friends \$3,500 to help him stage the attack because he was unhappy with his salary as an actor on "Empire," a Fox series about that follows a black family as they navigate the ups and downs of the recording industry. Smollett was accused of using the scheme to drum up publicity for his career.

A judge in August appointed Webb, a former U.S. attorney, to look into why the original charges were dropped. Webb also was investigating wheth-



In this March 14, 2019, file photo, Empire actor Jussie Smollett arrives at the Leighton Criminal Court Building for his hearing in Chicago.

Associated Press

er phone calls that Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx had with a Smollett relative and a former aide of former first lady Michelle Obama unduly influenced the decision to drop charges. Foxx recused herself from the case but continued to weigh in.

At the time, Judge Michael Toomin, who assigned the case to Webb, raised the possibility that Smollett could be charged again. According to the judge and attorneys at the time, double jeopardy does not apply because Smollett was never prosecuted.

In his news release, Webb said he concluded that prosecuting Smollett was "in the interest of justice" for a number of reasons, including the extensive details of Smollett's false account as well as the resources that the police department threw at the investigation. When the first indictment

against Smollett was returned, Webb wrote, the state's attorney's office had concluded that the evidence in the case was "strong." But the office failed to offer any new evidence to explain why authorities dropped the charges just a few weeks later.

Further, Webb took issue with an assertion in a news release issued when the charges were dropped that Smollett had not received special treatment and that the case was resolved "under the same criteria that would be available for any defendant with similar circumstances." Webb asked for but never received any examples of other such cases, he wrote. The city has sued Smollett, seeking reimbursement of more than \$130,000 for overtime paid to officers who were involved in investigating Smollett's report. Smollett's attorneys have

said the city should not be allowed to recover costs from Smollett because it accepted \$10,000 from the actor "as payment in full in connection with the dismissal of the charges against him."

It was not immediately clear what sentence Smollett faces if convicted. When he was originally charged with disorderly conduct, it was reported that he could be placed on probation or sent to prison for one to three years per count. Smollett's case has become an issue in Foxx's bid for a second term. Those looking to unseat the first black woman to hold the county's highest law enforcement position, have blasted her handling of the matter as haphazard and indecisive. They say it indicates she has bad judgment and favors the rich and powerful in deciding who will be prosecuted. □

China still mostly closed down as virus deaths pass 1,000

By JOE McDONALD

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The daily death toll in China from a new virus topped 100 for the first time, pushing the total fatalities above 1,000 Tuesday as the World Health Organization announced a new name for the disease caused by the virus.

Despite the official end of the extended Lunar New Year holiday, China remained mostly closed for business as many remained at home, with some 60 million people under virtual quarantine.

In Geneva, WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced a new name for the disease caused by the virus — COVID-19 — saying officials wanted to avoid stigmatizing any geographic location, group of people or animal that might be linked to the disease and to make it clear it was a new coronavirus discovered in 2019. "Having a name matters to prevent the use of other names that can be inaccurate or stigmatizing. It



Personnels wearing protective suits wait near an entrance at the Cheung Hong Estate, a public housing estate during evacuation of residents in Hong Kong, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020.

Associated Press

also gives us a standard format to use for any future coronavirus outbreaks," the WHO chief said, adding that the name was agreed upon by officials at WHO, the World Organization for Animal Health and the Food and Agriculture Organization. Here are the latest devel-

opments:

PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICIALS SACKED

With the death toll reaching 1,016 in mainland China and no end in sight, heads are beginning to roll. While no central government-level officials have lost their jobs, state media reported Tuesday that

the top health officials in Hubei province, home to the epicenter of Wuhan, have been relieved of their duties. No reasons were given, although the province's initial response was deemed slow and ineffective. Speculation that higher-level officials could be sacked has simmered, but doing so could spark political infighting and be a tacit admission that the Communist Party dropped the ball.

The virus outbreak has become the latest political challenge for the party and its leader, Xi Jinping, who despite accruing more political power than any Chinese leader since Mao Zedong, has struggled to handle crises on multiple fronts. These include a sharply slowing domestic economy, the trade war with the U.S. and pushback on China's increasingly aggressive foreign policies.

A total of 42,638 virus infections have been recorded on the Chinese mainland.

MAJOR CHALLENGES AHEAD

Zhong Nanshan, a leading Chinese epidemiologist, said that while the virus outbreak in China may peak this month, the situation at the center of the crisis remains more challenging.

"We still need more time of hard working in Wuhan," he

said of the central Chinese city where the outbreak started.

Speaking by teleconference to doctors in Wuhan, Zhong said the priority is to separate the infected from the healthy in their city.

"We have to stop more people from being infected," he said. "The problem of human to human transmission has not yet been resolved."

Without enough facilities to handle the number of cases, Wuhan has been building prefab hospitals and converting a gym and other large spaces to house patients and try to isolate them from others.

RISKS OF RESTARTING BUSINESS

The crossing of more grim thresholds has dimmed optimism that the near-quarantine of some 60 million people and other disease-control measures are working. The restart of business poses a risk of further spreading the virus, but China has little recourse, said Cong Liang, secretary general of the National Development and Reform Commission, the country's main economic planning body. "Without the reopening of businesses, in the short term, it will affect the supply of medical material and ... in the long run, it will affect the supply of all kinds of production and life materials and will make the control and prevention efforts on the front line unsustainable. The target of defeating the epidemic will not be reached," Cong said at a news conference.

HONG KONG

In Hong Kong, authorities evacuated some residents of an apartment block after two cases among those living there raised suspicion that the virus may be spreading through the building's plumbing.

It was reminiscent of the SARS outbreak that killed hundreds in the semi-autonomous Chinese city. The biggest number of connected cases in that outbreak were in one apartment complex where the virus spread through sewage pipes. □

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Robyn Peoples, left, 26, and Sharni Edwards, 27, pose together after becoming the first same sex couple to marry in Northern Ireland, in Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland, Tuesday Feb. 11, 2020.

Associated Press

Couple weds in Northern Ireland's first same-sex marriage

LONDON (AP) — Two women tied the knot Tuesday in Northern Ireland's first same-sex wedding, after the region became the last part of the United Kingdom to legalize gay marriage. Care worker Robyn Peoples, 26, and waitress Sharni Edwards, 27 married at a ceremony in Carrickfergus, near Belfast. The couple said they had not intended to be the first to wed, but were thrilled to become symbols of change in Northern Ireland. "We fought so long and hard for this opportunity to be seen as equal and now we are here and it's just amazing," said Robyn. She and her wife both took the married name Edwards-Peoples. Northern Ireland's legislature did not follow the British and Scottish parliaments in allowing same-sex marriages starting in 2014. The socially conservative Democratic Unionist Party, the biggest group in the Northern Ireland Assembly, opposed legalization. But after a campaign by equal-rights groups, Britain's Parliament stepped in

last year to bring the region into line with the rest of the country. The change took effect Jan. 13, with the first weddings able to take place four weeks later. U.K. lawmakers acted while Northern Ireland's regional assembly and government were suspended amid a feud between the main Irish nationalist and British unionist power-sharing parties. The power-sharing administration was restored last month after a three-year hiatus. But even if Northern Ireland lawmakers wanted to, they could not easily overturn the marriage law made by Parliament in London. British lawmakers also voted last year to expand access to abortion, which had been severely restricted in Northern Ireland. Among those who campaigned to change the marriage law was Sara Canning, whose partner, journalist Lyra McKee, was killed by gunfire from Irish Republican Army dissidents as she covered anti-police rioting in Londonderry in April 2019. □



Rights campaigner Silkie Carlo, left, demonstrates in front of a mobile police facial recognition facility outside a shopping centre in London Tuesday Feb. 11, 2020, "We don't accept this."

Associated Press

London police deploy face scan tech, stirring privacy fears

By **KELVIN CHAN**
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — London police started using facial recognition cameras on Tuesday to automatically scan for wanted people, as authorities adopt the technology that has raised concerns about increased surveillance and erosion of privacy. Surveillance cameras mounted on a blue police van monitored people coming out of a shopping center in Stratford, in east London. Signs warned that police were using the technology to find people "wanted for serious crimes." Officers stood nearby, explaining to passers-by how the system works. It's the first time London's Metropolitan Police Service has used live facial recognition cameras in an operational deployment since carrying out a series of trials that ended last year. London police are using the technology despite

warnings from rights groups, lawmakers and independent experts about a lack of accuracy and bias in the system and the erosion of privacy. Activists fear it's just the start of expanded surveillance.

"We don't accept this. This isn't what you do in a democracy. You don't scan people's faces with cameras. This is something you do in China, not in the U.K.," said Silkie Carlo, director of privacy campaign group Big Brother Watch.

Britain has a strong tradition of upholding civil liberties and of not allowing police to arbitrarily stop and identify people, she said. "This technology just sweeps all of that away."

Police Commander Mark McEwan downplayed concerns about the machines being unaccountable. Even if the computer picks someone out of a crowd, the final decision on whether to investigate further is

made by an officer on the ground, he said.

"This is a prompt to them that that's somebody we may want to engage with and identify," he said.

London's system uses technology from Japan's NEC to scan faces in the crowds to see if they matched any on a "watchlist" of 5,000 faces created specifically for Tuesday's operation.

The watchlist images are mainly of people wanted by the police or courts for serious crimes like attempted murder, McEwan said.

London police say that in trials, the technology correctly identified 7 in 10 wanted people who walked by the camera while the error rate was 1 in 1,000 people. But an independent review found only eight of 42 matches were verified as correct.

Police are "using the latest most up-to-date algorithm we can get," McEwan said.

□

Rebels shoot down Syrian helicopter as fighting intensifies

By **BASSEM MROUE** and **SUZAN FRASER**

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Rebels shot down a Syrian military helicopter in northern Syria on Tuesday, killing its crew members in a fiery crash, while the government kept up its relentless bombing campaign on the opposition-held region, with an airstrike in which seven civilians died, activists and news reports said.

The violence in Idlib province came as government troops moved closer to capturing the last rebel-controlled section of a strategic highway linking southern and northern Syria, which would bring the road under the full control of President Bashar Assad's forces for the first time since 2012.

With support from Russia and Iran, Syrian troops have been on the offensive for weeks in Idlib and parts of nearby Aleppo provinces, unleashing a humanitarian crisis with 700,000 people fleeing their homes



Syrian government helicopter is shot by a missile in Idlib province, Syria, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020. Associated Press

and surging north toward the Turkish border.

Nearly a quarter of the 3 million people in Idlib and nearby areas have fled. Terrified families piled onto trucks and other vehicles, clogging muddy rural roads in yet another harrowing exodus in the conflict, now

in its ninth year. Hundreds of civilians have died in the latest fighting, according to the United Nations.

The Syrian helicopter gunship was shot down by insurgents amid fighting near the village of Nairab as rebels, backed by Turkish artillery, tried to retake it after

losing it last week, according to opposition activists.

Associated Press video showed the helicopter spiraling from the sky and breaking up as fire poured from its fuselage, just before it crashed. Two bodies could be seen on the ground.

Turkey's official Anadolu news agency reported that the pilot and two others aboard were killed, while opposition activists reported that only two crew members were on board. Hours later, a Syrian airstrike hit the city of Idlib, the provincial capital, killing seven people and wounding nearly two dozen, according to the Syrian Civil Defense, also known as White Helmets. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the airstrike killed 12 civilians, half of them children, and wounded about 30.

Opposition activists said the airstrike on Idlib, home to about 800,000 people, was carried out in response to the downing of the helicopter.

The fighting recently escalated with two separate clashes between Syrian and Turkish troops, killing 13 on each side, including five Turkish soldiers who were killed Monday.

Turkey, a main backer of the rebels, has rolled armored vehicles into Idlib, apparently to prevent gov-

ernment forces from reaching the border areas with Turkey. The country is home to some 3.6 million Syrian refugees and is concerned about more streaming in.

Turkey's defense minister told The Associated Press that Ankara has as many as four observation posts and two military positions in Syrian government-controlled territory, warning that Turkish soldiers were under orders to retaliate forcefully to any attacks.

Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said in the interview that Turkey would not vacate any of its 12 observation posts in Idlib.

"In the event of any action against them, they have been given instructions to retaliate even more powerfully," he said.

The Turkish Defense Ministry tweeted that more than 50 Syrian government troops were "neutralized" in Idlib province, without giving details of the circumstances. The claim could not be independently verified and military officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

The Syrian army said the Turkish threats "will not dissuade the (Syrian) army from continuing its operations in Idlib and western Aleppo province to cleanse them of terrorism." It warned that the military is ready to respond to the "aggression of Turkish occupiers."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also warned Assad's government that it will "pay a very, very heavy price" for attacks on Turkish troops.

At a speech in Ankara, he said he would explain Turkey's next steps in Idlib province at a ruling party meeting Wednesday.

He said the offensive in Idlib was threatening Turkey's relations with Russia.

"There have been very important results from our cooperation, but unfortunately the regime's attacks in Idlib, killing civilians and attacking our troops, have begun to do a great deal of damage to this partnership," he told a news conference. □



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Egypt's booming population officially hits 100 million

By ISABEL DEBRE
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's fast-growing population hit 100 million Tuesday, the official statistics agency announced, presenting a pressing problem for an already overburdened country with limited resources.

The staggering figure is an increase of 7 million since the publication of the latest census results in 2017.

Egypt's population has tripled since 1960, with the annual growth rate peaking in 1987 at nearly 2.8%. Every day nearly 5,000 people are born in Egypt, the agency estimates.

The country is trying to cope with resurgent birth rates and a "youth bulge" that has reached a peak. Roughly 62% of the population are below age 29, according to the U.N. Population Fund.

"We're looking at the largest cohort of young people in Egypt's history. This number can translate into severe challenges or opportunities depending on how the country chooses to invest," said Aleksandar Bodiroza, the Egypt representative for UNFPA.

The vast majority of the country's population is crammed in urban areas around the Nile, some 7% of Egypt's territory. The capital, Cairo, and its twin province of Giza, are home to a combined population of 19 million, according to Tuesday's figures.

Cairo has become so congested and overpopulated that President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi's government has decided to build a



In this Aug. 13, 2017 file photo, girls play on a rooftop in Boulaq El Dakroul district of Giza, Egypt.

Associated Press

vast new administrative capital in the desert, which critics say further drains resources in a country at risk of drought. The milestone quickly set off alarm over looming economic strain.

"The population problem is one of the biggest challenges facing the state," said Hala el-Said, the minister of planning and economic development.

Egypt, the most populous Arab nation, has been scrambling to stem its soaring birth rate. El-Sissi has repeatedly lectured Egyptians about the perils of overpopulation, describing it in one speech as "among the biggest threats facing Egypt," along with terrorism. The government recently

rolled out an ambitious family planning campaign called "Two is Enough," trying to challenge deep-rooted cultural traditions in rural areas, where contraception is scarce and children are viewed as a vital labor source and insurance policy for old age. The program's advertising blitz includes musical videos poking fun at outdated conceptions of child-rearing in rural areas, and billboards with catchy slogans.

Several government ministries also teamed up with the UNFPA to launch a more hands-on campaign called "Your Right to Plan," which provides access to birth control in hard-to-reach rural parts of Egypt,

with funding from the European Union.

"We are optimistic, and have reason to believe these strategies are working," said Bodiroza, citing a recent stabilization of birth rates in most of Upper Egypt.

The government faces heavy pressure to provide for an exploding population under increasingly trying circumstances. One third of the country lives in poverty, according to the statistics agency. Economic discontent is mounting. To stave off financial collapse as part of a bailout from the International Monetary Fund, the government has pushed through tough reforms over the past

three years. The austerity measures have slashed fuel subsidies and dramatically hiked up prices of everything from subway fares to utility costs. The benefits have yet to trickle down to working-class Egyptians who are struggling to cover their basic needs. Youth unemployment hovers around 34%, the World Bank reported.

In a press conference to mark the occasion, el-Said warned that unchecked growth would compound the country's concerns and jeopardize its economic reforms, resulting in a grave outlook: "a decline in shares of housing, educational and health services and job creation." □



A protester from the pro-life group **Derecho a Vivir** stands outside the Spanish parliament in Madrid, Spain, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020. Associated Press

Spanish government renews efforts to legalize euthanasia

By **BARRY HATTON**
Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Spain's new Socialist-led government has launched another attempt to legalize euthanasia and doctor-assisted suicide.

After early elections twice last year thwarted the government's efforts to change the law, the Socialist party thinks this time it has the support needed.

A parliamentary debate was taking place Tuesday in Madrid in which the lower house was being asked to accept the Socialists' legislative proposal for consideration. The move would open the way for Spain to become the fourth European Union country — after Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands — to allow euthanasia, which is when a doctor kills patients at their request. As well as those countries, assisted suicide — where patients administer the lethal drug themselves, under medical supervision — is also permitted in Switzerland and some U.S. states. If the proposal passes in a vote later Tuesday, it goes to a parliamentary health committee, then to the Senate, before returning to the lower house for a final vote. There is no fixed timetable for those stages.

Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez urged politicians to move forward quickly.

"We know that many people are waiting, that there is no time to lose," Sánchez wrote on his Twitter account.

Both euthanasia and doctor-assisted suicide are currently illegal in Spain, and carry prison sentences of up to eight years. Left-wing parties have tried on a dozen occasions since 1997 to pass bills to help facilitate assisted dying.

The parliament in Spain's neighbor Portugal, where Socialists are also in power, will discuss later this month a similar proposal to allow euthanasia and assisted suicide. Recent Spanish opinion polls have indicated broad public support for the left-of-center coalition government's plans. The issue has met resistance from conservative politicians and the Catholic church.

The Spanish Bishops' Conference says on its website that euthanasia "is always a kind of murder" and proposes improvements to palliative care. That proposal is backed by the conservative Popular Party which, along with far-right party Vox, are the only opposition in parliament to the Socialist party's proposal.

The proposed law in Spain would apply to people suffering an incurable condition, with the patient waiting no longer than a month for the procedure after requesting it. The request triggers a consultative process, with the patient's doctor required to obtain a second opinion from a colleague outside his team. After two weeks, the patient must repeat the initial request, which is then forwarded to a committee for assessment. □



Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó speaks during a visit hosted by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020. Associated Press

Opposition backers in Venezuela ask what's next for Guaidó

B Few places in Venezuela have a higher concentration of backers for opposition leader Juan Guaidó than the campus of the Central University of Venezuela, a hotbed of anti-government sentiment at the heart of the crisis-torn nation's capital, Caracas. Students say their expectations have soared in recent days since U.S. President Donald Trump showered Guaidó with attention on a stop in Washington. Still, they're left with questions about what comes next for the challenger following a tour of nations that back his effort to oust socialist leader Nicolás Maduro.

"This country needs more than tours," said medical student Edgar Julio, 25, seated at an open-air cafeteria talking with classmates. "We need action. We need answers."

On campus, students complain of a shortage of teachers due to mass emigration, and classrooms at the sprawling campus often lack electricity and running water, reflecting deterioration across the nation. "Our position as medical students is based on what we see every day in the hospital with our patients," said Julio, noting that patients suffer and die for a lack of basic antibiotics. "That for us is a sin."

Guaidó, 36, is at a critical moment in his year-long campaign to oust Maduro, which appeared to be flagging in recent months. The opposition leader said in a video circulated online late Monday from an undisclosed location that he's planning his return to Venezuela. He called on his countrymen to mobilize. "Venezuelans have the support and respect of the world," Guaidó said. "We've got to come together like never before to continue our fight inside and outside of Venezuela."

This message came three weeks after Guaidó quietly slipped out of Venezuela to rally international backing, breaking a travel ban imposed by the government-friendly supreme court. It included meetings with European leaders like British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. This played out a year after Guaidó announced he was assuming interim presidential powers as head of the National Assembly, arguing that Maduro's reelection had been invalid. He won backing from nearly 60 nations, including the United States, his Guaidó's most important international ally.

The buzz, however, had

begun to fade after several months when a quick transition failed to materialize. Guaidó's effort to spark a military uprising failed in April and once-large demonstrations by supporters thinned. Maduro remains firmly in control of all levers of government.

Guaidó's visit to Washington revived hopes among supporters. He was a surprise guest at Trump's annual State of the Union address, where Trump recognized Guaidó as the only "legitimate president of Venezuela" and said that Maduro's hold on power "will be smashed and broken." Trump followed that with a 45-minute meeting with Guaidó.

Eric Farnsworth, Washington D.C.-based vice president of the Americas Society think tank, said from a public perspective, Guaidó may have even exceeded expectations by scoring a coveted White House meeting, though that poses risks.

"You're raising expectations again," Farnsworth said. "If the expectations are raised but not met, then you have a real problem."

White House officials have piled up sanctions on Venezuelan officials in attempt to pressure Maduro out and say they're weighing more. □

LOCAL



AAR's First Island Wide Open House



ORANJESTAD — The Association of Aruban Realtors (AAR) is pleased to announce that they will be holding their first Island Wide Open House. This open house allows visitors to walk through several properties that are for sale and they will be guided by a knowledgeable realtor.

Open House Events are increasingly popular in the United States and Europe as they offer a new way of displaying real estate to potential buyers. This event gives visitors the opportunity to look at several different properties around the island of Aruba in different price ranges.

Features and benefits of this Open House include the following:

- It allows you to gauge the level of interest in different houses in Aruba and ease the process of viewing the best property before making a decision.
- It allows you to pass by any of the houses and view them without the need to make an appointment.
- Real estate agents will be present at every home and they will guide you and make the experience enjoyable.

This Open House will take place on Saturday February 15, 2020 starting at 10AM until 12PM. There will be around 30 houses open to the public and you could walk through them with a realtor present to answer any questions you may have.

For more information on AAR's first Open House Event, visit our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/aar.arubarealestate/>. □

About AAR

AAR is the only Real Estate association in Aruba. All members must adhere to a strict code of conduct and ethics. Members must be knowledgeable about the real estate market and the applicable laws. Only screened and reputable real estate offices can become members. The fact that your broker is a member of this association offers several advantages for you as buyer or seller as they offer expertise, reliability, and certainty. You can find property listings from all brokers that are members of the Association of Aruban Realtors (AAR) on our website www.arubalistings.com. Valuable members of the association include Sotheby's, Alto Vista International Realty, Aruba Brokers, Aruba Home Finders, Aruba Living Today, Aruba Massari Rentals, Aruba Top Homes, Azure, Cas Bon, Century 21, Clearly Realty, Coldwell Banker, Executive Real Estate, Gold Coast, Moresco, MPG Real Estate, O condominium, Palm Aruba, Prima Casa, RE/MAX, RealTeza, Riva Real Estate, Sage Realty, and Homes by Jenn.



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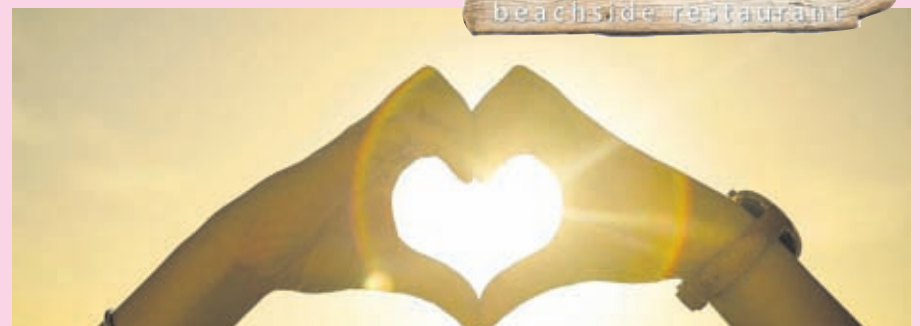


EAGLE BEACH — Food made with love is what you will taste this Friday at Matthew's Beachside Restaurant. The Valentine's dinner is a culinary journey to your heart. Bring your significant other and spend a romantic night with ocean view and superb service.

Matthew's Beachside Restaurant has been consistent in its top quality since the start about ten years ago. The unique characteristics of the establishment are the delicious food, its outstanding location – literally, within feet from the ocean, and the elegant yet comfortable beach-chic design. The magical touch in this Xanadu is the service. Matthew's offers a

lovely menu this Valentine's that starts with a 'Cheers to love Berry Bellini', followed by a 'Happitizer of fried goat cheese rose on a garden or lobster bisque soup'. The main dish is a choice between a 'petite filet mignon or stuffed roasted pepper large couscous or a blackened corvina sweet potato bacon hash'. Complete the romance with a 'Dessert to be kissed, a white and dark chocolate mousse'.

Matthew's Beachside Restaurant is located on the Beach at Casa del Mar Beach Resort. J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 51, Oranjestad – Tel. 297 588 7300 – info@matthews-aruba.com. □



All from the USA



EAGLE BEACH — Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors and as Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The Distinguished Visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively. The Emerald Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 35 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were **Panorea Pavloglou** as a Distinguished Visitor of Aruba. The Emerald Ambassador certificate went to couple Donald & Charlene Wezesa. All these visi-



tors are from USA.

This lovely group of people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety, and Aruba's warm and friendly people who became like family to them.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Aruba Beach Club presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

They became like family

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple **Anthony & Geraldine Barbaro** from Connecticut, USA.

This lovely couple stated that

they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, and Aruba's warm and friendly people that became like family to them!

Richardson together with the representatives of the La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



It's Carnival!

ORANJESTAD — While the official opening of the carnival season took off with the Torch Parade on January 4, the island caught the carnival fever and since then entered a series of carnival events that go on until February 25th.

The island is known for its white-sanded beaches and perfect climate, but there is one time in the year that Aruba draws thousands of visitors: carnival. If you have never been here before, come in carnival season as your experience will be amazing. Sensational musical events, queen elections and different parades are all part of

this spectacular phenomenon. Carnival is part of Aruba's history and cultural heritage, actually it is the largest cultural festival on the island. For the islanders it is a way to express their creativity and break away from the daily buzz of life. Dancing to the rhythm of local music while enjoying the ambiance of the public are some of the ingredients of this festival. Oranjestad and San Nicolas are the stages for this display of unique designed costumes, amazing ambience and upbeat, local music. The festival is for everybody accessible and safe to visit. Behind the screens there is an enormous organization

that makes sure that this festival runs smoothly. The police, inspection department, Red Cross volunteers, garbage service and many others work day and night to make sure that carnival is a success. All the trailers are being carefully inspected before they are allowed to participate as well as the vehicles that pull them. After each parade the streets are being cleaned and road blocks are being taken away so next day normal traffic flow occurs. The several organizations and institutions work together with the official carnival organization SMAC.

History

In the 1920's the first carnival events were organized by social clubs that started private costume and masquerade parties. This year we celebrate Aruba's 64th carnival, which means that the first grand parade took place in 1955. Since then Aruba's carnival has grown big and is now able to stand shoulder to shoulder with the most renowned Carnival celebrations around the world. Aruba Today has put the coming carnival events for you in a row:

Feb 12 6:00 PM - 1:00 AM	Sunset Parade	Noord
Feb 14 8:00 PM - 2:00 AM	Welcome to Jouvert	San Nicolas
Feb 15 4:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Jouvert Morning	San Nicolas
Feb 15 8:00 PM - 1:00 AM	Lighting Parade	Oranjestad
Feb 16 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Grand Children's Parade	Oranjestad
Feb 16 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Burning of Momito	APA
Feb 19 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Jump Up Escolar	Dakota
Feb 19 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Jump Up Dakota	Dakota
Feb 20 8:00 PM - 2:00 AM	Parada di Luz	San Nicolas

For more information you can visit Facebook page SMAC, the official carnival organization. □



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NOORD — Tierra del Sol Resort & Golf is proud to invite you to Aruba's first "Premium Casual" dining experience at the newly designed restaurant at Tierra del Sol. The spectacular new design showcases a fashionable color scheme with modern furniture, an expanded outdoor terrace, and a bar overlooking Aruba's beautiful Caribbean Sea and their Robert Trent Jones II golf course.

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Valentine's Day is the celebration of love, beauty and romantic mood between couples and/or friends. It is a festive day where you would like to emphasize the importance of this special person in your life. You can do this in many ways, by sending cards, flowers, gifts, presents or arranging a wonderful day/night out.

While enjoying your stay in Aruba you can make this day extra special by surprising your love with the help of Aruba Today.

Besides the fact that we have wonderful dinner and gift options to choose from, advertised in our newspaper in the coming days up to February 14th, we

can make this day even more special. Surprise your significant other with a picture of her/him or both of you in Aruba Today, accompanied by your personal message. Imagine taking your vacation breakfast in the morning and while reading the newspaper all of a sudden you see YOU. This will surely make her or his day.

What Do You Do?

Send your selected picture (high resolution JPEG) with short personal Valentine message (maximum 40 words) to email: news@arubatoday.com by LATEST Wednesday February 12.

What Will We Do?

We will publish your picture and message in the local section of Aruba Today on Friday February 14 in our printed newspaper and on our website and Facebook page.

Make her/him smile on this special day, do something different!

There is only one happiness in this life, to love and be loved. ... ~ George Sand



cOndominium
eagle beach

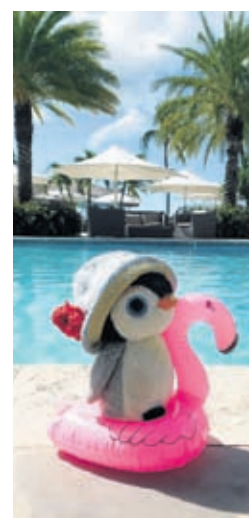
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Erek the penguin loves Aruba



ORANJESTAD — Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple **Vincent & Lori Confreda** from Rhode Island, USA. This couple have been traveling with their travel body named Erek the penguin for years. Erek enjoys long walks on the beach and sipping cocktails at the Renaissance Island with his flamingo friends. Family Confreda stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety, and Aruba's warm and friendly people who became like family to them.

Richardson together with the representatives of Renaissance Resort & Casino presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

Today's Happening



A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba



Wednesday 12

Sunset Parade in Noord

- The streets of Noord will be filled with lights, carnival music and great ambience.
- From 6pm-1am
- Noord (Bubali Shopping Center – Caya Frans Figaroa – CMB Noord)
- Facebook: SMAC



Thursday 13

Barefoot Beach BBQ

- If you're not barefoot, then you're overdressed. Join us for the Barefoot Beach BBQ on the Renaissance Ocean Suites Beach! A delicious BBQ made to order will be prepared for you accompanied by a build your own salad station, your choice of marinate, side dishes and a decadent dessert station. Have some Family Fun around the grill with live music and a Beach Bar ready to serve you.
- 6pm-10pm
- Renaissance Ocean Suites
- Facebook: Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino



Friday 14

Valentine's Day Dinner at Sunset Grille

- Treat your beloved to an unforgettable Valentine's Day Dinner at Sunset Grille. Indulge in a decadent four-course menu featuring an array of exquisite dishes, highlighting the taste of Sunset Grille! Reservations required. Please call at (+297) 526 6612 or email hiltonconcierge@depalmtours.com.
- From 5:30pm-1030pm
- Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino
- Facebook: Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino

Saturday 15

Aruba's Grand Lighting Parade

- It's time for one of Aruba's biggest Carnival parades. The Lighting parade is filled with creativity, costumes, floats and road pieces.
- From 8pm-1am
- Starts at Aruba Entertainment Center in Dakota
- Facebook: SMAC



Sunday 16

Grand Children's Parade Oranjestad 2020

- The streets of Oranjestad are ready for a fun day filled with the children's energy and enthusiasm.
- 1pm-6pm
- Starts at Aruba Entertainment Center in Dakota
- Facebook: SMAC



Monday 17

Sunset Yoga

- After a heavy carnival weekend it's time to relax at the Sunset Yoga.
- 6pm-7pm
- Wilhelmina Park, Oranjestad
- Facebook: Sunset Yoga Aruba

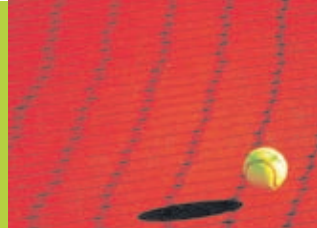


Tuesday 18

Cat Mosaic Workshop for Kids

- Kids love school holidays! Cosecha and Merveline are adding more love to this by organizing a Cat Mosaic workshop for kids in the school vacation week in February. Not only will they learn this art but we will keep instilling a love for pets in each other. We love kids, we love art, we love animals.
- 10am-1pm
- San Nicolas, B v/d Veen Zeppenfeldstraat 20
- Facebook: Aruba Cosecha

SPORTS



Tiger's pursuit resumes for No. 83 at Riviera

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — There is no better place for Tiger Woods to set the PGA Tour record for most career victories than at Riviera. Because this is where he played his first PGA Tour event as a 16-year-old amateur? No. Because he now is tournament host of the Genesis Invitational, giving it the kind of elevated status — smaller field, bigger purse — enjoyed only by Jack Nicklaus at the Memorial and the late Arnold Palmer at Bay Hill? Not necessarily. Because it's the course Woods has played the most times — 10 as a professional — without ever having won and he's due? Not at all. What makes Riviera ideal is because it's the next one on his schedule. And the sooner Woods can win No. 83 to break the record he shares with Sam Snead, the sooner everyone can stop speculating about the inevitable. The question came up Tuesday — how could it not? — about how special it would be for Woods to set the record at Riviera. He interjected by saying with a smile, "Yes, that's been mentioned." It was mentioned three weeks ago at Torrey Pines when he started the new year, and that made just as much sense. Torrey Pines was the first PGA Tour event he attended with his father, the course where he won eight times, including that 2008 U.S. Open that he played with a double stress fracture and shredded knee ligaments.

Continued on Page 22

STUNG!

Hornets beat Pistons 87-76, end 5-game losing streak

Detroit Pistons guard Bruce Brown (6) prepares to pass the ball after running into Charlotte Hornets guard Devonte' Graham (4) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Feb. 10, 2020, in Detroit.

Associated Press
Page 20



Beauvillier scores 2, Islanders beat Capitals 5-3

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Anthony Beauvillier scored twice, Josh Bailey had three assists and the New York Islanders kept Alex Ovechkin stuck at 698 career goals in beating the Washington Capitals 5-3 Monday night. The Islanders jumped out to a 5-1 lead and held on to hand the Capitals a second consecutive regulation loss at home. Washington also lost center Evgeny Kuznetsov to a scary-looking upper-body injury when he was crunched into the boards in the second period.

Leo Komarov, Devon Toews and Jordan Eberle also scored, chasing Washington rookie goaltender Ilya Samsonov after he allowed five goals on 20 shots. Braden Holtby, who got yanked after allowing seven goals on 25 shots behind a similarly weak defensive performance Saturday against Philadelphia, stopped all 12 shots he faced in relief.

Thomas Greiss made 25 saves to pick up his 16th victory of the season for New York. Barry Trotz improved to 4-0 in Washington as Islanders coach since leading the Capitals to the Stanley Cup in 2018. John Carlson, Lars Eller and T.J. Oshie scored for the Capitals.

LIGHTNING 2, BLUE JACKETS 1, OT

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Nikita Kucherov scored his

second goal of the game 31 seconds into overtime to give Tampa Bay its seventh straight win.

Columbus' Zach Werenski turned the puck over behind his own net and Victor Hedman fed it out to Kucherov, who beat Elvis Merzlikins for his 27th. The Lightning won the first meeting of the teams since the Blue Jackets swept Tampa Bay in the first round of the 2019 Stanley Cup Playoffs, giving Columbus its first-ever post-season series victory.

Former Blue Jackets backup Curtis McElhinney, starting ahead of Andrei Vasilevskiy on the first night of a back-to-back, had 31 saves to extend the Lightning's point streak to nine games (8-0-1). They are 19-2-1 in the last 22 games.

Oliver Bjorkstrand scored for Columbus, and Merzlikins finished with 28 saves.

FLYERS 4, PANTHERS 1

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — James van Riemsdyk had a goal and assist, Carter Hart stopped 30 shots in his return from injury and Philadelphia beat Florida.

Travis Sanheim, Ivan Provorov and Claude Giroux also had goals for Philadelphia, which is 6-1-1 in the last eight. The Flyers improved to 19-5-4 at home.

MacKenzie Weegar scored for Florida, which has lost four straight.

Panthers goalie Sergei Bobrovsky, who began his NHL career with the Flyers in 2010, had 30 saves.



Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin (8), of Russia, and New York Islanders defenseman Scott Mayfield (24), left wing Michael Dal Colle (28) and Derick Brassard battle for the puck during the second period of an NHL hockey game, Monday, Feb. 10, 2020, in Washington.

Associated Press

COYOTES 3, CANADIENS 2

MONTREAL (AP) — Jakob Chychrun scored a tie-breaking power-play goal with a minute left, lifting Arizona past Montreal.

Derek Stepan and Taylor Hall also scored for the Coyotes, who scored three goals after going down 2-0 early. Antti Raanta made 26 saves.

Jake Evans and Brendan Gallagher scored for the Canadiens, who had won three in a row. Carey Price stopped 31 shots.

FLAMES 6, SHARKS 2

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Milan Lucic and Tobias Rieder scored in a span of 34 seconds early in the first

period, Matthew Tkachuk added a highlight-reel tally in the third, and Calgary beat San Jose.

Zac Rinaldo, Mark Jankowski and Mikael Backlund also scored to give the Flames back-to-back wins following a three-game losing streak. David Rittich made 34 saves.

Erik Karlsson and Brent Burns scored for the Sharks, who were trying for their first three-game winning streak since November. Aaron Dell made 31 saves.

CANUCKS 6, PREDATORS 2

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Jacob Markstrom stopped 36 shots, and Elias Pettersson and

J.T. Miller each had a goal and an assist to lead Vancouver.

Zack MacEwen, Brandon Sutter, Jordie Benn and Jake Virtanen also scored for the Canucks, who ended a four-game losing streak.

Quinn Hughes had three assists to take over the lead in the rookie scoring race with 44 points.

Craig Smith and Mikael Granlund scored for the Predators. Pekka Rinne lasted just 20:58, giving up four goals on 17 shots in his first appearance in four games. Juuse Saros stopped 13 of 15 shots the rest of the way. □

U.S. wrestlers compete in Cuba despite frayed relations

By ANDREA RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Two dozen athletes from the U.S. flew to Cuba despite rising tensions between the countries to participate in the island's most important Greco-Roman and freestyle annual wrestling competition.

The athletes came from states including New York, Minnesota and Wyoming and included several Olympians.

"We're down here to compete in one of the greatest sports in the world," said Robby Smith, a 2016 Olympian from Danville, California.

The visit comes several months after the U.S. government imposed major restrictions on educational and recreational travel to Cuba as President Donald Trump continues to roll back Obama-era efforts to restore normal relations. Luis Alberto Orta, a Cuban

wrestler in the 130-pound (60-kilogram) category, brushed aside those issues. "It's essential that athletes from all countries be able to fraternize with us," he said.

A total of 14 countries are participating in the Granma Cup and Cerro Pelado competition in Havana, among them Canada, Honduras, Argentina and Hungary. The Granma Cup hosts Greco-Roman wrestlers and takes place



R. Felix Hernandez from Cuba, left, and Robert Smith from the United States, compete in the semifinals of the 130kg category in the Granma Cup and Cerro Pelado International tournament, in Havana, Cuba, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020.

Associated Press

Monday and Tuesday. The Cerro Pelado is for freestyle wrestlers and is scheduled for Feb. 15-16. □

Raptors beat Timberwolves 137-126 for 15th straight win

By The Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — OG Anunoby scored a career-high 25 points and matched his career high with 12 rebounds, Kyle Lowry had 27 points and 11 assists, and the Toronto Raptors extended their franchise-record winning streak to 15 by beating the Minnesota Timberwolves 137-126 on Monday night. Pascal Siakam scored 14 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter, Rondae Hollis-Jefferson had a season-high 21 and Fred VanVleet added 16 as the Raptors won their 16th straight home meeting with Minnesota. Lowry returned after missing Saturday's win over Brooklyn because of whiplash, but center Serge Ibaka sat because of flu-like symptoms. Hollis-Jefferson started for Ibaka.

D'Angelo Russell scored 22 points in his Minnesota debut and Karl-Anthony Towns had 23 points and 10 rebounds.

BUCKS 123, KINGS 111

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Khris Middleton and Eric Bledsoe scored 28 points apiece to lead Milwaukee to the victory without Giannis Antetokounmpo.

Antetokounmpo, the reigning MVP, missed the game after he and his girlfriend welcomed their first child, a son whose birth he announced earlier Monday on his Twitter account.

Milwaukee trailed 90-88 after three quarters, but opened the final period with 13 consecutive points. Harrison Barnes had 23 points and De'Aaron Fox added 17 for the Kings, who had won four of their previous five.

LAKERS 125, SUNS 100

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rajon Rondo scored a season-high 23 points, Anthony Davis added 25 points and 10 rebounds, and Los Angeles rolled over Phoenix.

The Lakers had dropped three of their last four at Staples Center but didn't have any problems against the Suns. Los Angeles put the game away in the second as Rondo scored 15 points in the quarter. It was only the fifth time in Rondo's 13-



Toronto Raptors forward Patrick McCaw (22) celebrates a three-point basket against the Minnesota Timberwolves during second half NBA basketball action in Toronto, Monday, Feb. 10, 2020. Associated Press

year career he has scored 15 or more in a period.

LeBron Davis had 17 points, nine assists and eight rebounds in 30 minutes for the Lakers, who have won four of their last five.

Mikal Bridges scored 18 points for Phoenix, which has lost six of seven. Cheick Diallo added 15 points while Jevon Carter and Ricky Rubio scored 13 apiece.

HEAT 113, WARRIORS 101

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Jimmy Butler had 21 points and 10 rebounds in his return to Miami's lineup, and the Heat won in Andre Iguodala's first game back in the Bay Area, thumping Golden State.

Jae Crowder added 21 points and eight rebounds. Bam Adebayo had 13 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists. Kelly Olynyk had 12 points and a career-high 11 assists.

Iguodala, a key member of the Warriors' three championship teams from 2015-

18, had two points and five rebounds in 17 minutes against his former team.

Damion Lee scored 26 points with five 3-pointers for Golden State (12-42). The loss ends the Warriors' five-year streak of finishing .500 or better.

JAZZ 123, MAVERICKS 119

DALLAS (AP) — Utah's "Jordan Clarkson scored 25 points before fouling out and Rudy Gobert stayed perfect from the floor against Dallas this season. Gobert was 7-of-7 shooting after making all eight attempts in Utah's home victory last month. He finished with 17 points and 16 rebounds. The 7-foot-1 center has made 17 consecutive shots against Dallas going back to last Feb. 23.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored a season-high 33 points and Kristaps Porzingis added 28 for the Mavericks in their seventh straight game without injured All-Star point guard Luka Doncic.

The second-year sensation, who has a sprained right ankle, could return for the final game before the All-Star break.

NUGGETS 127, SPURS 120

DENVER (AP) — Jamal Murray scored 14 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter to help the Nuggets rally from 23 down to get the win.

Denver scored 74 points in the second half, a season high, and outscored San Antonio by 21 after half-time. The Nuggets have won three in a row and six of their last seven.

Paul Millsap, who finished with 22 points, helped spark the comeback on his 35th birthday. The reserve had 16 points in the second half, including a go-ahead 3-pointer early in the fourth. Nikola Jokic had 19 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds while battling foul trouble trying to guard LaMarcus Aldridge. The Spurs forward had 33 points to lead all scorers.

NETS 106, PACERS 105

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Spencer Dinwiddie made a 21-foot jumper with 5 seconds left, lifting Brooklyn to the victory.

Dinwiddie finished with 21 points.

The lead changed hands three times in the final 27 seconds and wasn't decided until Malcolm Brogdon's 3-pointer at the buzzer came up short. Brooklyn has won two straight at Indianapolis for the first time since 2012-13.

Domantas Sabonis had 23 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists for his fourth triple-double this season. But the Pacers dropped their sixth straight game.

MAGIC 135, HAWKS 126

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Aaron Gordon scored 26 points for Orlando, and Nikola Vucevic had 24 points, nine rebounds and nine assists.

The Magic shot 52.6% from the field and made a season-high 18 3-pointers in their highest-scoring game this season. Evan Fournier added 22 points, and Terrence Ross had 21.

Trae Young had 29 points and nine assists for Atlanta. John Collins scored 22 points, and Dewayne Dedmon had 14 points and nine rebounds.

The Magic used a pair of 11-0 runs in the fourth quarter to get past an Atlanta team playing the second game of a back-to-back. The Hawks needed two overtimes Sunday to beat the New York Knicks.

HORNETS 87, PISTONS 76

DETROIT (AP) — Miles Bridges scored 18 points, helping Charlotte stop a five-game slide.

The win was Charlotte's 10th straight against Detroit, including two consecutive 4-0 season sweeps. The Hornets are 13-36 against the rest of the league and had lost 13 of their previous 14 games.

Malik Monk added 16 points for the Hornets, and Devonte' Graham had 14 points and 11 assists.

The Pistons have lost three straight and nine of 11. Thon Maker led Detroit with 12 points and a career-high 12 rebounds. □

LeBron James among 44 U.S. Olympic basketball team finalists

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

LeBron James is considering a return to the Olympics.

James — a two-time gold medalist and three-time Olympian — was among 44 players announced by USA Basketball on Monday as finalists for the team that will play in the Tokyo Games this summer. James played in 2004, 2008 and 2012, helping the U.S. win gold in his most recent two appearances.

The pool includes 19 players who have won a total of 31 gold medals in either Olympic or World Cup competition for the Americans — including nine players who captured the Olympic title for USA Basketball in Rio de Janeiro four years ago.

"I've always maintained that equity is important," USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo told The Associated Press. "And you earn equity by participating.

So, we think they've earned the right to be named to the overall roster for USA Basketball. It's pretty elite. It's a tremendous pot and the good news is they've all said they want to play."

James has played in 68 games for the U.S. national team and has said several times over the past year or so that he is thinking about another Olympics — after sitting out the Rio Games for a variety of reasons. Part of the interest in participating this summer is to have the chance to play for U.S. coach Gregg Popovich of the San Antonio Spurs.

"My name is in the hat. It's always predicated on how my body feels at the end of the season," James said. "I am hoping to make a long playoff run and then where my mind is and where my family's head is. There are a lot of factors."

There will be no tryouts. USA Basketball will pare the list down to a 12-person Olympic team by early

June, those decisions to be made by a selection committee — and to be based in part on player availability and health.

Training camp will start in early July, potentially as little as two weeks after the end of the NBA Finals. The Olympics start July 24.

"I want to play," said Portland's Damian Lillard, one of the finalists.

"I think, looking at my career and all the stuff I want to accomplish before it's over, winning a gold medal at the Olympics is on the list.

I was happy to see my name on there, obviously, and hopefully I'll be a part of the team."

USA Basketball officials, including Colangelo and Popovich of the San Antonio Spurs, have met with players in a variety of ways over the past several weeks.

Some talks have been directly with players, some with their agents, some with their NBA clubs, sometimes a combination thereof — and, Colangelo noted, there were some instances where players reached out directly to express interest.

If they're on the list, that means USA Basketball is convinced they want to play.

"I feel very good about the response," Colangelo said.

Also included in the pool: 15 of the 16 players from the U.S. who are scheduled to play in Sunday's NBA All-Star Game, and all 12 members of the team that represented the U.S. at last summer's Basketball World Cup in China — where the Americans managed only a seventh-place finish after roughly three dozen players who were on the list at some point dropped out along the way.

The nine players still in the mix from the 2016 Olympic team: Sacramento's Harrison Barnes, Miami's Jimmy Butler, San Antonio's DeMar



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James goes to the basket against the Sacramento Kings during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif., Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020.

Associated Press

DeRozan, Brooklyn's Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving, the Los Angeles Clippers' Paul George, Golden State's Draymond Green and Klay Thompson, and Toronto's Kyle Lowry.

Back from the 2012 Olympic champion roster: the Los Angeles Lakers' James and Anthony Davis, Durant, Houston's James Harden and Russell Westbrook, Cleveland's Kevin Love and Oklahoma City's Chris Paul. Back from the 2008 gold-medal squad: the Lakers' Dwight Howard.

And those with World Cup or world championship gold medals for USA Basketball, but no Olympic gold to this point: Golden State's Stephen Curry, Cleveland's Andre Drummond and Denver's Mason Plumlee.

James and Paul won Olympic gold at Beijing in 2008, and James was part of the team that won bronze at Athens in 2004.

If James joins this team, he will become the second

four-time men's basketball Olympian for the U.S. — joining Carmelo Anthony.

"I'm looking forward to coaching the U.S. Olympic Team, and I'm excited about the potential and possibilities this team has," Popovich said.

The Olympics could be a return to the court for players like Durant and Thompson, who have missed the entirety of this NBA season with injuries.

Durant's recovery from Achilles' surgery is at the point where he's doing some on-court work and Thompson has said he would like to play if his surgically repaired knee is up to the challenge.

The 25 other players who are finalists for this summer's team but do not yet have Olympic or World Cup gold for the U.S.: Miami's Bam Adebayo, San Antonio's LaMarcus Aldridge, Washington's Bradley Beal, Phoenix's Devin Booker, Indiana's Malcolm Brogdon, Boston's

Jaylen Brown, Utah's Mike Conley, the Clippers' Montrezl Harrell, Brooklyn's Joe Harris, Philadelphia's Tobias Harris, Boston's Gordon Hayward, New Orleans' Brandon Ingram, the Lakers' Kyle Kuzma, the Clippers' Kawhi Leonard, Lillard, Milwaukee's Brook Lopez, the Lakers' JaVale McGee, Milwaukee's Khris Middleton, Utah's Donovan Mitchell, Indiana's Victor Oladipo, Boston's Marcus Smart and Jayson Tatum, Indiana's Myles Turner, Boston's Kemba Walker and San Antonio's Derrick White.

"The reason we have this big roster is a lot of things happen, a lot of variables," Colangelo said. "And what's to say what's going to happen from an injury standpoint between now and June.

We don't know. So we have the rest of the season to monitor, to watch.

But when we select our 12, they will be 12 who are absolutely in with all fours." □

No. 83

Continued from Page 18

Then again, Woods has left such an enormous trail in golf that winning anywhere would have some historical perspective.

It could be Bay Hill, where he has won eight times. Maybe the Masters, where he could set the record and tie Jack Nicklaus with a sixth green jacket. The U.S. Open is at Winged Foot, the first major he played after his father died and the first cut he ever missed in a major. It's a long list.

Woods hasn't decided where he is playing or even how much this year — even the Mexico Championship next week remains up in the air — but odds are he will have won every tournament on his schedule except L.A.

Oddly enough, what made the career record feel so inevitable was a tournament he had never played.

Winning the Tour Championship (for the third time) at the end of the 2018 season was the first step in his comeback from four back surgeries. Winning the Masters (for the fifth time) made the comeback complete, for it was his first

major after a drought of nearly 11 years. But it was when he returned from a fifth knee surgery — this one the maintenance variety — and played the ZoZo Championship in Japan where he showed such a comfort level with his swing and with his game that more victories seemed certain to follow.

So how about now?

"I've played in a number of events over the years, and for me not to win an event that has meant so much to me in my hometown ... I've done well in San Diego, I've done well at Sherwood, just haven't done well here," Woods said. "So hopefully, I can put it together this week and we'll have a great conversation on Sunday." Riviera is the closest PGA Tour stop to his hometown of Cypress in Orange County, about 40 miles away, although with traffic, it takes about as much time as the 90 miles from Cypress to Torrey Pines.

Woods has done well all over his home state: eight victories at Torrey Pines, three at La Costa, two at Pebble Beach, one at Harding Park (not including the Presidents Cup in 2009,



In Jan. 26, 2020, file photo, Tiger Woods watches his tee shot on the second hole of the South Course at Torrey Pines Golf Course during the final round of the Farmers Insurance golf tournament Sunday, in San Diego.

Associated Press

where he went 5-0). Riviera hasn't been so friendly to him.

Woods withdrew after narrowly making the cut in 2006 because he was ill, and he stayed away for the next 12 years, only returning when a new title sponsor came on board and took on his TGR Ventures as the group running the tournament.

Not all memories are bad. He was runner-up in 1999 to Ernie Els — a bogey on the 13th cost him dearly, and

a bogey on the final hole ended it for Woods. He also shared a story about one of the occasions he was at the tournament without clubs.

Woods was behind the ropes watching on the 11th tee when he heard Tom Watson was coming up the eighth hole, which was right behind him. He got there just in time for Watson to miss left while aiming for the back left pin position.

"I'm basically one of the only ones over there and

Bruce (Edwards) was on the bag and I'm standing looking at the golf ball," Woods said. "He comes over and says, 'Move out of the way, kid,' and pushes me out of the way. So I'm out on tour telling him this story and he says, 'Well, you were in the way.'

"So for me to have experiences like that here at Riv and to have now this be my event ... hopefully on Sunday we'll be having this discussion a little bit more." If not Sunday, then soon. □

Bonner traded to Connecticut Sun for 3 1st-round picks

By **DOUG FEINBERG**
AP Basketball Writer

The Connecticut Sun were one win away from a WNBA title last season. The team added a big piece for potentially getting that extra victory on Tuesday by trading for DeWanna Bonner.

The Sun sent the Phoenix Mercury three first-round draft picks for the All-Star wing. Phoenix received the No. 7 and 10 overall picks in this year's draft as well as the Sun's first-round pick next season.

"It's an exciting day in Connecticut. Obviously, DeWanna Bonner was one of the most coveted free agents out there this season and a perennial All-Star," Sun coach and general manager Curt Miller said. "To add an-

other versatile established player in this league to our roster was something that



In this Aug. 16, 2019, file photo, Phoenix Mercury forward DeWanna Bonner (24) looks to pass during a WNBA basketball game against the Atlanta Dream in Phoenix.

Associated Press

was very intriguing and interesting for us. Happy to have her as a part of the family." Bonner had played her entire career with the Mercury after get-

ting drafted fifth in 2009. She helped the team win championships in 2009

and 2014. The 32-year-old was the franchise's all-time leading rebounder (2,072) and second on the scoring list (4,820) behind only Diana Taurasi. "We draft-

ed DeWanna in 2009, and together we won championships in 2009 and 2014," Mercury general manager Jim Pitman said.

"We watched as she became a sixth woman of the year, All-Star, all-WNBA player, and most importantly a mother. Ultimately, she has decided the next stage of her career does not include us and we wish her the best. She and her daughters, Cali and Demi, will always remain a part of the Mercury family."

Bonner missed the 2017 season because she was pregnant.

Bonner was an unrestricted free agent, but by doing a sign-and-trade she was able to potentially earn an extra \$30,000 as the new maximum salary in the collective bargain-

ing agreement is \$215,000. If she had just signed with Connecticut the maximum she would have been able to earn would have been \$185,000.

"The new CBA allowed for a higher amount if you stay with the incumbent team," Miller said. "Part of it was the negotiation. She's someone who had been loyal to Phoenix. That played part of it as far as sign and trade versus just signing."

The Mercury still have a lot of room to make moves with only a half-dozen players under contract. Taurasi, Briann January, Alanna Smith, Brianna Turner and Sophie Cunningham are all signed. Brittney Griner was given the core designation by the team. □

Busch has done it all in NASCAR, except win the Daytona 500

By DAN GELSTON

AP Sports Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)

— Kyle Busch has partied in victory lane at every NASCAR track from Darlington to Dover, from Bristol to the Brickyard. Busch has even celebrated at Daytona, with a 2008 summer Cup Series victory on his resume, and trophies from races in other series or exhibitions in his collection. Kyle Busch prepares to get in his car during NASCAR auto race practice at Daytona International Speedway, Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

He has yet to take his traditional bow as the confetti flies at the Daytona 500. He is 0 for 14.

Winning the biggest race in NASCAR is the last drop in filling a bucket list of milestones that includes two Cup championships and more than 200 NASCAR victories for one of NASCAR's all-time greats, who is just 34. If failing to win the Daytona 500 is gnawing at the tempestuous Busch,



Kyle Busch prepares to get in his car during NASCAR auto race practice at Daytona International Speedway, Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

he's not letting on.

"The whole aspect of having one item not checked is not that big of a deal," Busch said. "It's not going to end my career by any means."

Maybe not, but it would put a tidy bow on a career

where Busch really has not much left to prove.

Last season, Busch was agonizingly close to winning the "Great American Race," finishing second in a race where he led inside of 10 laps left. He had another strong chance in 2008 until

a late-race miscalculation by a teammate cost him a shot at the Harley J. Earl trophy.

Busch gets another shot Sunday at winning the race that Trevor Bayne, Jamie McMurray and Derrike Cope all managed to figure out.

Busch could move past Rusty Wallace and into ninth on the Cup career wins list if he emerges from the anything-can-happen pack. Among active drivers, Busch's 56 wins and two titles are behind only seven-time champion Jimmie Johnson (83 wins). Busch could become the first repeat Cup champion since Johnson won five straight from 2006-2010.

The good times throughout his career are etched in Busch's Hall of Fame credentials, but the near misses at Daytona are unforgettable.

In 2008, Busch's first season at Joe Gibbs Racing after a complicated breakup at Hendrick Motorsports, a drive toward the finish with teammate Tony Stewart came down to the wire.

Running out front in the high line, Stewart held off two Penske cars over the final thrilling laps. But as Penske drivers Ryan Newman and Kurt Busch closed in on him, Stewart didn't feel safe running alone without any allies.

At the last second, he dropped low on the track to line up in front of Busch. The JGR teams had planned on winning with teamwork, and Stewart thought he would need Busch to make it to the checkered flag.

The decision backfired in the blink of an eye. Stewart couldn't hook up with Busch fast enough, and the two Penske cars steam-rolled past him on the top.

"I think Tony, to want to stick together and work as teammates, took an opportunity to do that with me rather than jumping out and getting in front of the other two that were coming," Busch said. "That took away his Daytona 500. I think it was his to win. But we were right there, and we were right there close and had a fast car, too."

Trying last season to become No. 1 at Daytona, Busch was instead second in the 1-2-3 finish for JGR.

Busch was leading on a restart with nine laps to go and opted to start from the bottom lane after winner and teammate Denny Hamlin told Busch's crew that they would "race it out" without working together. Before the final restart, though, Busch said Hamlin wanted to "go back into teammate preservation mode." Busch did some blocking that allowed Hamlin to hold off Joey Logano.

"It hurt not being able to bring home that trophy and for Denny to be able to bring home two, but that's just a part of racing," Busch said. "Hopefully we can get it done this year or whenever, sometime or another, before it's all said and done for myself to be able to at least have one." Busch's bad luck extends beyond the checkered flag drought. He crashed into a concrete wall in a race the day before the 2015 Daytona 500 and broke his right leg and left foot. Busch was stuck in a hospital bed, the Daytona 500 just a race on TV. Busch withstood multiple surgeries, went through a grueling rehabilitation program and missed only 11 races. □

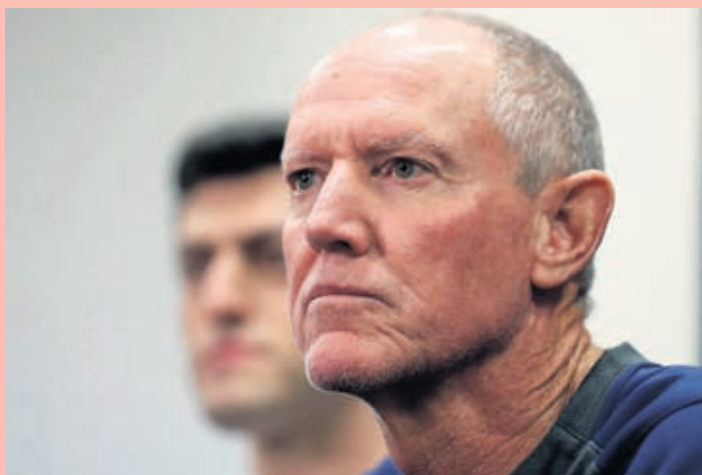
Red Sox promote Ron Roenicke to interim manager

By JIMMY GOLEN

AP Sports Writer

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP)

— The Boston Red Sox promoted bench coach Ron Roenicke to manager Tuesday, hiring him to replace Alex Cora on the day the team's pitchers and catchers reported for the start of spring training. The move is an indication that Roenicke — and perhaps the entire Red Sox organization — will escape punishment in baseball's sign-stealing investigation. Cora was let go for his role in the Houston Astros' cheating, but the team has maintained that there was no similar scheme in Boston when the Red Sox won it all in 2018. A decision from Major League Baseball had been expected before the start of spring training, but a person with knowledge of the probe said the investigation would continue into



Ron Roenicke, right, speaks as Red Sox Chief Baseball Officer Chaim Bloom looks on after being named interim manager of the Boston Red Sox baseball team Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020, in Fort Myers, Fla. at left.

Associated Press

next week. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because there was no formal announcement. Commissioner Rob Manfred said last week that he hoped to have the investigation wrapped before the start of spring training; Red Sox pitchers and catchers re-

ported Tuesday and have their first workout Wednesday. Roenicke, 63, takes over a team that is dealing with the fallout not only from the cheating investigation but also the salary dump of onetime AL MVP Mookie Betts and Cy Young winner David Price. □

Joyful Heart

By: Carlos M Viana, OMD, CCN

While interning in Shanghai as a Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) physician, I learned that an energetic heart allows the expression of joy. The literary word for lightening the mood of something is "leaven"; as in "readers tell me that these weekly articles leaven or enliven their mood". The Modern Greek word "leaven" is "enzumos" that yields the word enzyme. Enzymes are proteins produced by the cells that control or "turn on" thousands of body reactions.

One enzyme family is digestive enzymes, which help the body naturally, digest food, a good thing. Plant digestives, like Bromelain from pineapple AND Beta Pepsin or Hydrochloric Acid (HCL) are good supplement choices for over-eating or eating the wrong foods. But even good things need help, like Phyllis, without whose organization skills, I would accomplish very little. Similarly, an important partner that helps enzymes work are coenzymes. The prefix "co" means together or jointly, like co-worker. One coenzyme that is getting a lot of attention is Coenzyme10 or CoQ10. This supplement is widely used in Japan to treat angina, severe chest pains because of a lack of blood to the heart. Pain, shortness of breath, fatigue, swelling of the ankles, legs or abdomen, and increased urination, are all symptoms that may signal that the heart cannot pump sufficient blood to keep pace with the energy demands of the body, congestive heart failure. If you suspect any of the above, it may be a good idea to have a check-up.

CoQ10 is found in every cell in the body. CoQ10 assists enzymes in bringing oxygen into the cells and producing energy needed for cell growth and maintenance. It is also used by the body as an antioxidant. An antioxidant is a substance that protects cells from unhealthy chemicals called free radicals. Free radicals are highly reactive chemicals that can damage parts of cells, including DNA. DNA is a molecule inside cells that carries genetic information and passes it from one generation to the next. This damage may play a role in the development of cancer. Low blood levels of CoQ10 have been found in patients with bone, lymph gland, breast, lung, prostate, pancreas, colon, kidney, and other cancers.

Think of CoQ10 as an accelerator pedal in your

car that sends more fuel to your heart. If the fuel is not available, symptoms of congestive heart failure develop. The fuel for your body is ATP whose structure includes a sugar called ribose. Combining the dietary supplement D-ribose together with CoQ10 is an energizing combination.

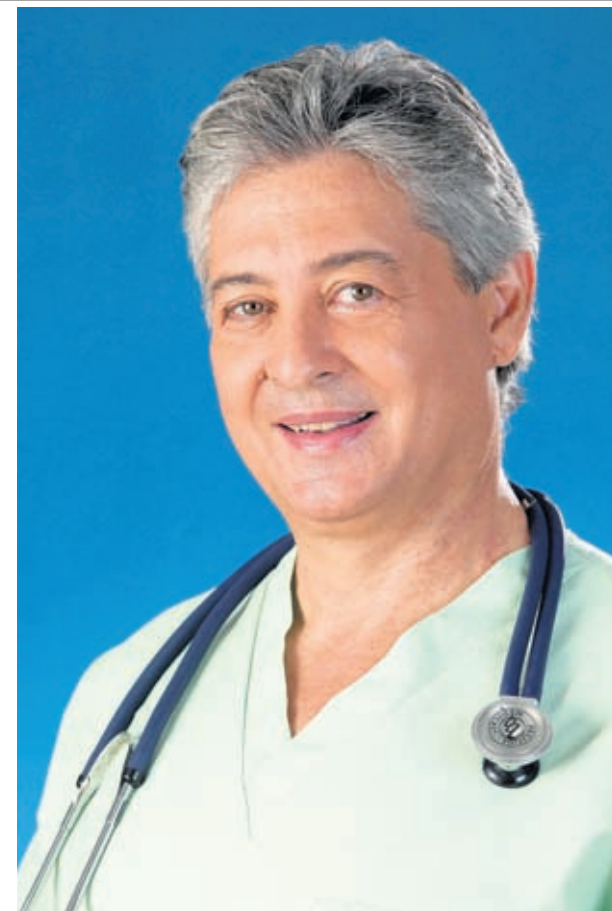
As a Clinical Nutritionist I always recommend CoQ10 be taken together with complementary or "co-worker" supplements; because absorption of CoQ10 into your body is poor. In fact, probably over 60 percent of most oral doses of CoQ10 are excreted by the body without being used. Absorption of CoQ10 is greater when taken together with food that has a good quality fat content, like olive oil, wild caught salmon and butter (notice I did not say margarine). Because of this, I always recommend taking CoQ10 together with a fat or oil, like Omega 3 or Alpha-lipoic acid. Quality dietary supplement manufactures are now producing CoQ10 with enhanced absorption or bioavailability by surrounding each CoQ10 molecule with tiny fat cells of good fats like alpha-lipoic acid

Most modern diets are deficient in Omega 3's and adding Flax seed oil or Fish oils, to a daily supplement program, which includes vitamin C, Magnesium, Zinc and Lecithin is what I feel is a great basic dietary plan. Of course, not everybody utilizes or absorbs the same. If you have any health concerns, visit a clinical nutritionist to be sure you are getting the right combination of co-workers for your needs

Another super oil or fat is alpha lipoic acid which is known as the "universal antioxidant". It has the ability to conserve and prolong the life of vitamins C & E in the body, increasing their effectiveness. Alpha lipoic acid is also an excellent metal detoxifier, particularly for mercury and cadmium.

In Germany, alpha-lipoic acid is an approved medical treatment for nerve damage and pain, a common complication of diabetes. It speeds the removal of glucose from the bloodstream, at least partly by enhancing insulin function, and it reduces insulin resistance, the foundation of many cases of coronary heart disease and obesity. The richest food source of alpha-lipoic acid is red meat.

Alpha lipoic acid binds easily with CoQ10 making it better absorbed by your body. Because of insufficient dietary intake of healthy oils, taking alpha-lipoic acid together with CoQ10 is a



good way to increase absorption of both. These two supplements in combination are extremely effective for prolonging cellular vitality and reducing the body's production of unhealthy free radicals. ALA and CoQ10 also enhance production of ATP which is the body's form of energy.

D-Ribose alone can help your body refuel and stay energized a must for athletes, older individuals, exhausted parents or anyone with busy lives. Together, ALA with CoQ10 and D-ribose help produce much more energy for all body functions, including exercise and relaxing and recovery of the body's muscles. This is a joyous thing, especially for the heart.

Get The Point! Dietary supplements are important tools that can be used to maintain or return health; but, like carpentry tools, knowledge on how to use them is instrumental. An appointment with a clinical nutritionist can identify your personal needs and introduce the correct co-workers to do the best job. My biocompatible protocol also includes heavy metal and other detoxification and acupuncture, a treatment that rebalances the body's energy, relaxes tight muscles and increases the effectiveness of dietary supplements. Want to allow more joy into your heart? Check out this and more in my book or call to make an appointment. □

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Under Armour puts NYC flagship store on ice, restructures

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN
AND ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
NEW YORK (AP) —

Under Armour's shares plummeted Tuesday with the company anticipating a big financial hit from the viral outbreak in China, and it said separately that it may need to restructure this year at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars.

The athletic gear maker expects the outbreak in China to drag first-quarter sales down by \$50 million to \$60 million. It's also looking at pre-tax charges this year of between \$325 million to \$425 million related to restructuring. Included in those charges would be \$225 million to \$250 million related to the flagship store, which was slated to open in the famed former location of FAO Schwarz, another retailer that fell on hard times.

Shares tumbled 16%.

The Baltimore company, after years of unbridled success, is now facing significant headwinds. It must contend with intensifying competition from Nike and Lululemon, both of which have created trendier athletic clothes that cater to younger shoppers. Under Armour executives also acknowledged on a conference Tuesday call that the heavy discounting it has used to generate sales may have eroded the willingness of customers to pay full price for its brand. CEO Patrik Frisk said the



This March 5, 2017, file photo shows a closeup of Under Armour cleats are seen before a drill at the 2017 NFL football scouting combine in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

company is facing weak demand in North America for goods that are not being put on sale at the same time that its substantial cost structure has prevented the company from spending aggressively to market its brand.

The company swung to a loss of \$15.3 million in the final quarter of 2019, or 3 cents per share. Its adjusted profit was 10 cents per share, meeting the expect-

tations of analysts polled by Zacks Investment Research. But its revenue of \$1.44 billion was just short of Wall Street projections.

The company said Tuesday that as important as a New York flagship store might be, its focus must remain with smaller, more profitable stores and online sales.

"The Fifth Avenue location is a premier retail location, but we're considering

whether it may be better suited for someone else at this time," Chief Financial Officer Dave Bergman said.

Numerous global companies have reported supply line and staffing problems because of the outbreak of the coronavirus in China, and Under Armour was no exception. The company anticipates shipping delays and challenges in getting fabric, packaging and other raw materials.

"We think it's reasonable to expect industry-wide delays in terms of deliv-

ery around the world including potentially missed shipment and service windows and the need for increased air freight and additional measures at ports that could create unforeseen congestion," Frisk told industry analysts Tuesday. Under Armour Inc. expects fiscal full-year revenue to be down at a low single-digit percent compared to a year ago. Earnings are forecast between 10 cents and 13 cents per share. □

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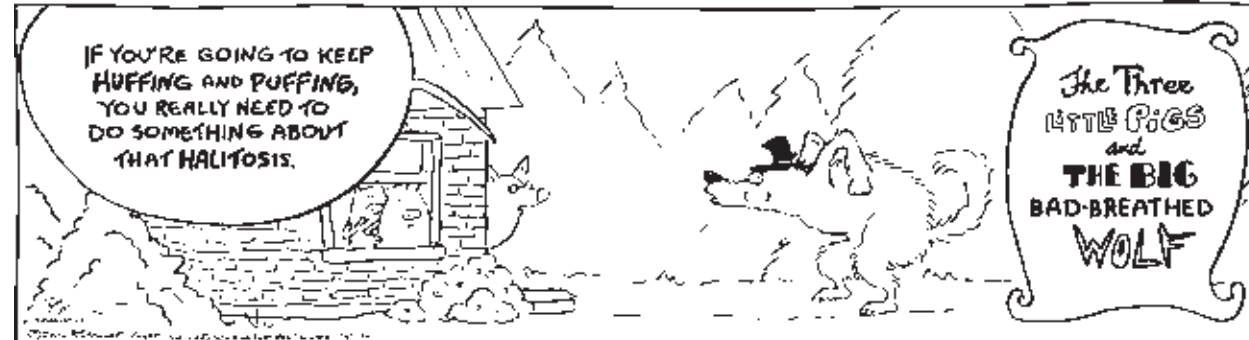
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Mutts



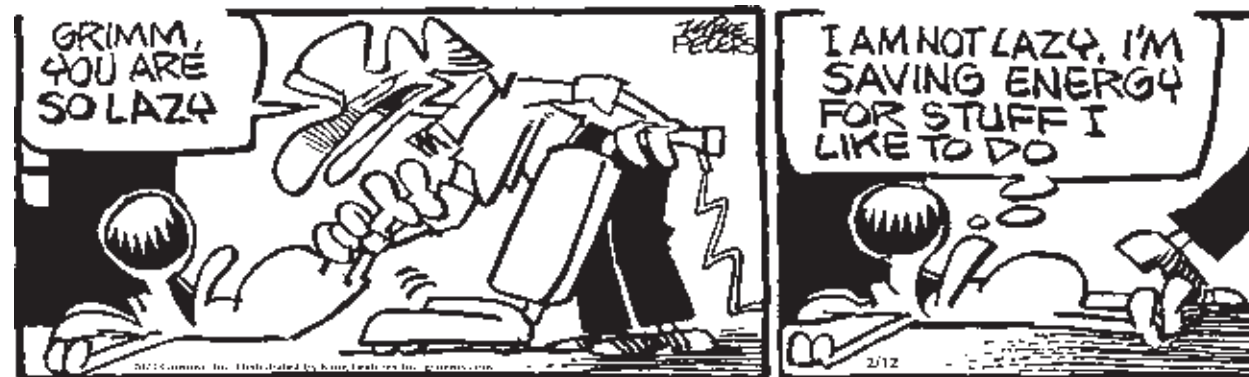
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	7	6	2					
3				7			9	2
1			9		8			
7		1		2	6			
	6		5	8		1		
		2	3		9	7		
	1			9	4		5	6
	5					8	7	
						2		

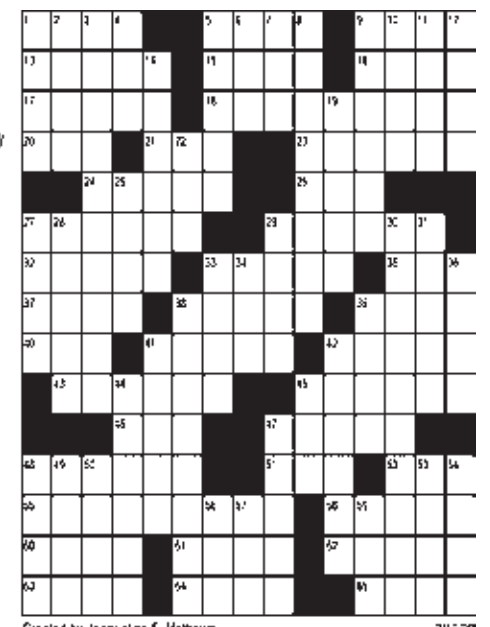
Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	6	8	4	1	3	9	5	2
5	4	3	7	2	9	1	6	8
1	2	9	5	8	6	4	3	7
3	5	4	8	9	7	2	1	6
8	7	2	6	3	1	5	9	4
6	9	1	2	5	4	7	8	3
4	1	5	3	7	8	6	2	9
2	8	6	9	4	5	3	7	1
9	3	7	1	6	2	8	4	5

- ACROSS**
- Send a parcel
 - Wild hog
 - AI... listening
 - Lady
 - As a... generally
 - Pod light
 - Pad maker
 - Plato's famous student
 - Casual snr...
 - over
 - convinced
 - Self-control
 - Tentacle bear
 - O'ke. I & Begley
 - Yost bird
 - Rascal's
 - The sky's the limit
 - Poker pot
 - Crash into
 - GE appliance
 - one's time warts
 - Couch
 - Paper Maze product
 - Person
 - Thin cookie
 - Leave 'nigh and dry
 - cut: use logic to solve
 - Vaudvilien Olsen
 - Keyboard instrument
 - Opposite of a owl
 - Do a lawn chore
 - Aswar, or Hoover
 - Too muddled to be understood
 - Berle on a buddy
 - Performs on stage
 - Quarter or nickel
 - Spouses
 - Examination
 - Common locations
 - Abnormal sec



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

2/12/20

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

GOT	STAMP	SCAM
AIRS	NICER	COLE
SLOT	IRENE	ROAD
STEPPED	UP	ELIS
T.O.E.D.		ABE
MASSES	MARIN	NATE
ORNOT	VEXED	LUX
ASAN	SITES	MINI
NORT	TUNES	CECIL
SNEAKIER	FLEECE	
BOY	MEAT	
WASA	ASCENDING	
ABOUT	BEARD	NOME
FLEE	LARGE	GREG
TESS	ELDER	MNO

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2/12/20

DOWN

- Slap
- Fair and charity

- Foreboding signs
- bat'an car
- In the past
- Phoey
- Grows etc
- Majority
- Start'ng word
- Whopper
- PC alternative

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2 BR Ocean Side \$ 18 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$26 K
3 BR Ocean View \$26 K

Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR WK 8
Building 6 on the 4th floor
27 weeks remain \$15 K
1 BR WK 11
building 7 on the 3rd floor
33 weeks remain \$15 K

Divi Phoenix

2 BR PH wk 11 and 12
building 9 on the 7 th floor
30 weeks remain #25 K each

Divi Village \$ 7 K

1 BR WK # 14
ground floor building C
16 weeks remain

Renaissance Suites

1 BR WK # 9 \$ 9 K
4th floor harbor view

Divi Village

2 BR Wk 13 \$13K
3 rd floor building
27 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

1 BR Wk 6 \$8K Birdie 1
19 weeks remain
Studio wk 7/8
Birdie 5 \$7,5 K each
27/29 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK 8/9
Eagle 9 \$9,5K each
with 27/19 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK #11
Birdie 3 \$9 K
26 weeks remain
1 BR wk 12/13
ground Floor
With 33/34 weeks remain
Birdie 10 \$9,5 K each

Divi Village

Studio wk 6 \$ 7,5 K
Building F
21 weeks remain
2 sd Floor 18 weeks remain

Dutch Village

1 BR WK 7/8 \$9 K each
15 weeks remain each
2 BR WK 7 \$18 K
25 weeks remain

Dutch Village

1 BR WK 9
16 weeks remain
1 BR WK 8 \$8 K
12 weeks remain
1 BR WK 7/8 \$7 K
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High water wreaks havoc on Great Lakes, swamping communities

By JOHN FLESHER

AP Environmental Writer

MANISTEE, Mich. (AP) —

Rita Alton has an unusual morning routine these days: Wake up. Get dressed. Go outside to see if her house is closer to tumbling down an 80-foot (24.4-meter) cliff into Lake Michigan.

When her father built the 1,000-square-foot (93-square-meter), brick bungalow in the early 1950s near Manistee, Michigan, more than an acre of land lay between it and the drop-off overlooking the giant freshwater sea. But erosion has accelerated dramatically as the lake approaches its highest levels in recorded history, hurling powerful waves into the mostly clay bluff.

Now, the jagged clifftop is about eight feet from Alton's back deck.

"It's never been like this, never," she said on a recent morning, peering down the snow-dusted hillside as bitter gusts churned surf along the shoreline below. "The destruction is just incredible."

On New Year's Eve, an unoccupied cottage near Muskegon, Michigan, plunged from an embankment to the water's edge. Another down the coast was dismantled a month earlier to prevent the same fate.

High water is wreaking havoc across the Great Lakes, which are bursting at the seams less than a decade after bottoming out. The sharp turnabout is fueled by the region's wettest period in more than a century that scientists say is likely connected to the warming climate. No relief is in sight, as forecasters expect the lakes to remain high well into 2020 and perhaps longer.



In this Jan. 14, 2020, photo, Rita Alton stands next to her house on the edge of a cliff overlooking Lake Michigan near Manistee, Mich.

The toll is extensive: homes and businesses flooded; roads and sidewalks crumbled; beaches washed away; parks were rendered unusable. Docks that boats previously couldn't reach because the water was too shallow are now submerged.

At one point last year, ferry service was halted in the Lake Erie island community of Put-In-Bay after the vessels' landing spot disappeared beneath the waves. On Mackinac Island in Lake Huron, portions of the only paved road washed away.

Homeowners and agencies are extending battered seawalls, constructing berms and piling stones and sandbags. Some are elevating houses or moving them farther inland. Even shanties in a historic Michigan fishing village dating to 1903 are being raised. The state's environment department has issued more than 400 permits for such projects.

The situation is inspiring soul-searching over how to cope with a long-term challenge unique to this region. While communities along ocean coasts brace for rising seas, experts say the Great Lakes can now expect repeated, abrupt swings between extreme highs and lows.

"It wasn't long ago they were worried about Lake Michigan drying up. Now it's full," said Rich Warner, emergency services director for Muskegon County. "All these ups and downs — I don't know if that's something you can truly plan for."

Levels are always changing in the Great Lakes, which together hold about 90% of the surface fresh water in the U.S. They typically decline in fall and winter, then rise in spring and summer as melting snow and rainfall replenish them. Broader fluctuations take place over longer periods. Levels surged in the 1980s before dropping sharply in the 2000s.

But increasingly, the highs are higher and the lows lower — and the variations happen faster. Lakes Superior, Huron and Michigan had bigger jumps between 2013-14 than during any comparable period. It took just seven years to go from record slumps to all-time peaks.

Lakes Ontario and Erie last year reached their highest points since record keeping began in 1918.

Superior surpassed several all-time monthly averages and did so again in January. Lakes Huron and Michigan did likewise last month, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Detroit.

Even Ontario, where a hydropower dam provides more stability, has experienced record highs twice in the past three years.

"That's not supposed to happen," said Drew Gronewold, a University of Michigan hydrologist. "That lake is carefully regulated."

Climate change is believed to influence water temperatures and precipitation, which wage a constant tug-of-war with lake levels. Warmer water boosts evaporation, which pushed levels downward about 20 years ago. But as the atmosphere warms, it sucks up more moisture from other regions and dumps it into the lakes, filling them back up.

"Those two forces are increasing in intensity at the same time," suggesting the up-and-down shifts may become more extreme, Gronewold said.

How long before the waters recede is anyone's guess. The Army Corps predicts the lakes will exceed

their long-term averages through June. Michigan and Huron already are 17 inches (43 centimeters) higher than a year ago.

Another ominous sign: Ice cover is light this winter. Shoreline ice provides a buffer against pounding waters. In its absence, Chicago's Lake Michigan waterfront was battered by waves reaching 23 feet (7 meters) high during a mid-January storm.

That means the potential for further damage will increase as spring snowmelt and rains arrive, said Ethan Theuerkauf, a Michigan State University geologist.

"This would include extensive beach, dune and bluff erosion, but also damage to coastal infrastructure and more lakefront homes falling in," he said.

Members of Congress from the region are seeking federal funds for barrier construction, dredging and restoring shorelines. State lawmakers in Michigan are pushing to expand the criteria for declaring emergencies that could trigger government assistance for people struggling to protect their homes.

But local officials acknowledge a need for innovative approaches to the lakes' increasing fickleness.

In South Haven, Michigan, consultants have developed a \$16.3 million list of infrastructure projects, including installing structures to absorb and dispel energy from Lake Michigan waves.

The Lake Erie town of Luna Pier, Michigan, is considering spending millions to replace dikes built nearly a half-century ago — a steep price for a village of only 1,500 residents. A waterfront hotel on Mackinac Island has hired specialists from Finland to revise its drainage.

"The climate is doing some weird and crazy things and we need to be prepared with stronger and more flexible infrastructure instead of just covering cracks," said Herasanna Richards, legislative associate with the Michigan Municipal League. □

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24/7

Winfrey says King not doing well after social media backlash

NEW YORK (Associated Press) — Oprah Winfrey says her friend Gayle King is facing death threats following a social media backlash caused by an interview with retired WNBA star Lisa Leslie that concerned the late Kobe Bryant. On an appearance on "Hoda & Jenna & Friends" on Friday, Winfrey said King "is not doing well" and has to travel with security because of threats. "She feels very much attacked." CBS released an excerpt to promote King's interview with Leslie. The clip, distributed online and on CBS News' social media accounts, focused on a portion of the interview where Leslie addressed a Colorado sexual assault case that had been brought against

Bryant and dismissed. In the clip, King asks Leslie whether the 2003 case made Bryant's legacy complicated for her. Leslie said that it did not. Critics lashed out at King on social media for bringing up the old allegations. Actor, rap artist and television executive 50 Cent told The Associated Press he thought it was unfair because Bryant wasn't around to defend himself. Snoop Dogg posted a profane Twitter video that concluded with him urging King to back off "before we come get you." The Twitter account belonging to imprisoned comedian Bill Cosby also was critical. King said in a video response via Twitter on Thursday that the clip was



In this Nov. 21, 2019 file photo, Oprah Winfrey speaks during the Celebration of the Life of Toni Morrison at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York.

Associated Press

shared out of context and expressed anger at her network. "I am mortified, I am embarrassed and I'm very angry," King said. CBS later released a statement say-

ing the clip "did not reflect the nature and tone" of the complete interview. Winfrey criticized what she called "misogynist vitriol" against King.

"I can see how people would obviously be very upset if you thought that Gayle was just trying to press to get an answer from Lisa Leslie," Winfrey continued. "Obviously all things pass, she will be OK, but she hasn't slept in two days." After the alleged victim decided not to pursue the case, she and Bryant reached a settlement in 2005. Bryant, who was 24 at the time of the Colorado incident, said he had not committed sexual assault. Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna, and seven other people were killed in a January helicopter crash in Southern California. A memorial will be held at the Staples Center in Los Angeles later this month. □

Closings next as Weinstein declines to testify at rape trial

By **MICHAEL R. SISAK and TOM HAYS**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The defense rested its case Tuesday in Harvey Weinstein's rape trial without the disgraced Hollywood mogul taking the witness stand, setting the stage for closing arguments in a landmark #MeToo trial punctuated by graphic testimony from six accusers.

As expected, Weinstein chose not to testify, avoiding the risk of having prosecutors grill him on cross-examination about the vile allegations. He confirmed the decision after returning to the courtroom from meeting with his lawyers behind closed doors for about a half-hour as speculation swirled that he was pushing to testify. Asked as he left court if he was thinking of testifying, Weinstein said: "I wanted to."

Defense lawyer Arthur Aidala added that Weinstein "was ready, willing, able and actually quite anxious to testify and clear his name" but didn't do so because his lawyers felt prosecutors "failed miserably" to prove their case beyond a reasonable

doubt. Jurors are expected to hear the defense's closing argument Thursday, followed by the prosecution's closing Friday. Jury deliberations are slated to start Tuesday. Court is closed Wednesday and again on Monday for holidays.

By not testifying, Weinstein followed the example of defendants in other high-profile sex crimes cases. They include Bill Cosby, who didn't take the witness stand either time he was tried for drugging and molesting a woman at his suburban Philadelphia home. After a mistrial in 2017, a second trial resulted in the comedian's conviction.

Weinstein, 67, is charged with forcibly performing oral sex on Mimi Haley in 2006 and raping a different woman in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013. Other accusers were called as witnesses as part of a prosecution effort to show he has used the same tactics to victimize many women over the years. Weinstein has maintained any sexual encounters were consensual. The Associated Press has a policy of not publish-

ing the names of people who allege sexual assault without their consent. It is withholding the name of the woman accusing Weinstein of raping her in 2013 because it isn't clear if she wishes to be identified publicly.

After the jury left for the day, Weinstein's lawyers sparred with prosecutor Joan Illuzzi-Orbon over her plan to mention in her closing argument that his physical appearance has changed significantly since the time of the alleged assaults.

Weinstein has hobbled into court each day with a walker, parking the device behind the defense table. His lawyers say it's needed because of recent back surgery, but Illuzzi said it seemed more like a prop put there to sway jurors' sympathies. "You can scream all you like," Illuzzi said. "They did not have to have the walker back there."

After more bickering, Judge James Burke said it was fine for Illuzzi to mention Weinstein's physical changes, but warned: "Leave the walker out of it." The defense case mainly relied on the tes-



Harvey Weinstein arrives for his rape trial, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020 in New York.

Associated Press

timony of three witnesses that Weinstein's lawyers used to try to cast doubt on the accounts on two of the accusers.

Talita Maia, a former roommate of the woman Weinstein is charged with raping, told the jury the woman never gave any indication that he victimized her — in fact, she said, the woman spoke highly of him and once called him her "spiritual soulmate."

"She seemed to really like him as a person," Maia said. "She would only compliment him." Maia also gave a breezy description of how the then-aspiring actress and Weinstein first met at a

Hollywood party a few months before the alleged rape. She said when the women figured out he was an industry big shot, she jokingly told him "that's why everyone is being so nice to you."

Her roommate, she added, went even further. She testified that the woman put her arm around Weinstein, pinched his cheeks and said: "No, it's because he is so cute."

Another friend of the woman testified Tuesday that she seemed like "her everyday self" when they met up for breakfast with Weinstein just a short time after she alleges he assaulted her. □

Bong's 'Parasite' focuses on plight of South Korea's poor



People watch a TV screen showing images of South Korean director Bong Joon Ho during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, Feb. 10, 2020.

Associated Press

By **KIM TONG-HYUNG** Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Koreans are reveling in writer-director Bong Joon Ho's dark comic thriller, "Parasite," which won this year's Academy Awards for best film and best international feature. The movie itself, however, doesn't put the country in a particularly positive light.

No doubt, the international acclaim for "Parasite," which also won the prestigious Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival last May, highlights South Korea's emergence as a global cultural power, a reflection of decades of focus on building world-class industries in one of the most vibrant democracies in Asia. But it also hints at an uncomfortable truth: While the national successes have been spectacular — from Samsung's rise as a global economic powerhouse to the explosion of K-pop in Asia and beyond — many South Koreans recognize that there's been a dark side to that rise. Only a few years ago, Bong himself was blacklisted by the government, and the characters in his film reflect a society where many feel intense hopelessness.

South Korea's rapid emergence from the devastation of the 1950-53 Korean War also saw a bloody transition from dictatorship to democracy. Its association with neat smartphones and cars came amid a constant threat from nuclear North Korea. For every international success, there's also widespread worry that South Korea will forever be overshadowed by regional giants Russia, China and Japan.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who frequently praises mega-popular K-pop boy band BTS, tweeted that he's grateful to Bong for "giving courage and pride to our people overcoming difficulties."

But "Parasite"'s main characters portray South Koreans who have been left behind by the country's dramatic changes. It's a biting commentary on deepening

inequality and other problems that have many young and poor people describing their lives as a hellish nightmare.

South Korea has one of the largest gaps between rich and poor among developed nations and is struggling mightily to deal with decaying job markets, rocketing house prices and a record-low birth rate as couples put off having babies while struggling with low pay and harsh work conditions.

Although fully Korean in language, humor and tone, Bong's dark tale of poverty and class struggle resonates across borders because Western democracies are also experiencing similar social and economic problems, albeit not as "extreme" as in South Korea, according to Chin Jung-kwon, a prominent cultural critic.

"The film shows that South Korea still has a strong message to show the world," Chin said.

While Bong is uniquely talented as a director, it was only a matter of time before South Korean movies and other pop cultural products gained increasing acceptance in the West, considering South Korea's dynamic cultural scene, which has matured along with its democracy, Chin says.

K-pop has garnered a huge international following with an increasing number of fans coming from the United States.

With "Map of the Soul: Persona," BTS last year became the first musicians since the Beatles to debut three consecutive albums atop the Billboard Album chart in a span of less than a year. South Korean TV dramas, which triggered the original "Korean Wave" in the early 2000s, continue to be big in Asia and other regions like the Middle East. Perhaps more than any other genre, South Korean films have aggressively tested artistic boundaries, often with stunning visuals and violence meant to expose the underside of the country's economic suc-

cess story.

This sometimes creates political consequences for the artists.

Bong was one of thousands of artists who were blacklisted and denied government funds under the rule of conservative former President Park Geun-hye for their allegedly critical views of her administration. Following protests by millions, Park was ousted from office in March 2017 and is now serving a decades-long prison term for corruption. Critic Kim Gyu-hang accused Bong of objectifying poor people and treating their lives like a "sight-seeing attraction," saying that the film makes no real attempt at explaining how the system locked the characters in a desperately hopeless situation.

"('Parasite') provides no deep insight into humans, their anger and how they are a byproduct of the social system that surrounds them," Kim said.

"Parasite"'s Oscars success follows years of struggles by South Korean directors to break through in Hollywood. Park Chan-wook, who won the Grand Prix at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival with his thriller "Oldboy," received mixed reviews for his 2013 work "Stoker," an English-language thriller starring Nicole Kidman. Bong enjoyed both commercial and critical success with his 2013 sci-fi film "Snowpiercer," which starred Chris Evans and Tilda Swinton along with "Parasite" actor Song Kang-ho. But nothing that's come before has been remotely as successful as this South Korean film shot in the Korean language.

"Every society in the world experiences conflicts created by people's efforts to move up the class ladder, and South Korean films have dealt with this issue for a long time," said veteran filmmaker Lee Jang-ho. "Maybe Bong's dark humor and his vivid description of the lives of the South Korean poor, including their 'half-basement' living spaces, felt refreshing to American moviegoers." □

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'You've Got a Friend in Me' — 'Toy Story 4' wins Oscar

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Talk about having a friend: "Toy Story 4" has become the first franchise to earn two animated film Oscars. The Disney and Pixar collaboration won the Academy Award on Sunday for best animated feature.

The franchise's third installment "Toy Story 3" took home the trophy in 2011.

"Toy Story 4" continued to tell the story of Buzz Lightyear, voiced by Tim Allen, and Woody, voiced by Tom Hanks, who this time unexpectedly reunites with his longtime friend Bo Peep. Woody is ultimately faced with the decision of how he

wants to live his life as a toy. It also introduced the new character Forky.

The film has made more than \$1 billion worldwide. Accepting the award, director Josh Cooley said "we hope your adventures with Woody and Buzz made growing up a little easier." Its signature song "I Can't Let You Throw Yourself Away" by Randy Newman is nominated in the best original song category.

He also wrote the song "You've Got a Friend in Me" for the first installment and "We Belong Together" for the third.

The series — which started off as the first feature-length film to be fully computer-animated — is credited



This image released by Disney shows, foreground from left, Buzz Lightyear, voiced by Tim Allen, Woody, voiced by Tom Hanks and Bo Peep, voiced by Annie Potts in a scene from the Oscar-nominated animated film "Toy Story 4."

(Disney/Pixar via Associated Press)

ed with changing the ways animated films are made, spawning other creative endeavors at Pixar that

would later lead to "Monsters Inc.," "The Incredibles" and "Ratatouille."

"Toy Story 4" beat out "Miss-

ing Link," "I Lost My Body," "How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World" and "Klaus." □

US songwriter, Russian soprano win 2020 Polar Music Prizes



Chairman of the Polar Music Prize jury, Alfons Karabuda announces the 2020 Polar Music Prize winners are singer Anna Netrebko and song writer Dianne Warren, in Stockholm, Sweden, Tuesday Feb. 11, 2020.

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (Associated Press) — American songwriter Diane Warren and Russian soprano Anna Netrebko are the winners of this year's Polar Music Prizes, the Swedish award often described as the Nobel Prizes of music.

The judging panel for the 2020 prizes announced Tuesday called Warren "a master of writing for the human voice" and said her songs "embody the rare combination of being catchy and yet complex enough to be heard hundreds of times"

"Diane Warren is the reigning Queen of the American popular song," it added in its citation. Warren who has written songs for multiple singers, as well as for several films has "perfected the art of the power ballad. "As a singer, to be given a Diane Warren song, is a gift." The Polar Music Prize panel paid tribute to Netrebko as "a larger-than-life singer who keeps the classics alive, sells out every performance and

also catches the attention of audiences new to opera." "When Anna Netrebko performs, it's impossible to look away," they wrote. Previous laureates include Sting, Patti Smith, Paul McCartney and Joni Mitchell, bands including Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin and Metallica, and conductors Pierre Boulez and Mstislav Rostropovich. Receiving the award "is a big honor," Netrebko said in a statement issued by the panel. Warren added that finding herself among past recipients and being in "that company is mind-blowing." The winners will each receive a cash prize of 1 million kronor (\$103,520). The award ceremony is in Stockholm on June 9.

The Polar Music Prizes typically recognize one classical artist and one contemporary musician each year. The awards were founded in 1989 by the late Stig Anderson, manager of Swedish pop group ABBA, have been handed out since 1992. □

Anna Sui rolls out B-movie gothic glam at NY Fashion Week

By LEANNE ITALIE

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (Associated Press) —

Anna Sui doesn't love scary movies, but she adores illusion, especially glamorous illusion.

That's one reason she turned to 1970s Italian horror, of the B movie variety, as inspiration for her latest collection, shown Monday at New York Fashion Week. Think goth vampires, and also the Catherine Deneuve-David Bowie cult favorite "The Hunger," another film that moved her.

It was the cat eye glasses and fascinator hats, along with the trashy lighting in red and green, that helped draw her in and punctuated her runway.

"This last couple of months I've watched so many of those movies," Sui told The Associated Press in a backstage interview. "Women wore negligees and peignoirs." And devil horns? Her often breezy collection, with some colorful on-brand puffer coats thrown in, included one model with a pair of horns in black. Others were dressed in black faux leather, crinkle and burnt velvets, and vampire-esque black Jacquard with fluttery feathers.

It was horror glam, a la Anna Sui. "I think that's what we're missing today is glamour," she said. "We've gone through that whole, like, sports sort of look and now we need something more glamorous. I think we miss glamour. Everything's so real, everything's so



The latest fashion creation from Anna Sui is modeled during New York's Fashion Week, Monday, Feb. 10, 2020.

(Associated Press Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

in your face, everything's so digital. We need a little illusion, we need a little fantasy, and that's what I was trying to show here." This fantasy came with lace-up boots and shoes with chunky high heels, a green print dress with cutouts and a pattern of black and white leaves, a goth cape in fiery red and plentiful paisley, a brand mainstay. She mixed textures and prints, pairing a faux fur leopard coat with a loose floral dress and patchwork crochet skirts with stretch-sleeve flower blouses. □

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